

Vetoed Legislation

See full summary documents for additional detail

Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA).

SL 2026-6 (H87)

S.L. 2026-6 (House Bill 87) and Section 8A.19 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) authorize the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) to certify and submit a list of qualifying scholarship granting organizations to the United States Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary). The act voluntarily elects the State to (i) participate in the federal tax credit program under § 25F of the Internal Revenue Code and (ii) identify scholarship granting organizations located in the State. The federal tax credit program provides tax credits for individual contributions to scholarship granting organizations that provide elementary and secondary education scholarships.

SEAA must submit to the Secretary and publish on its website a list of the scholarship granting organizations located in the State that meet the federal requirements. SEAA can establish rules governing the process and documentation necessary for an organization to be included on the list and enter into agreements with other State agencies to meet these requirements.

SEAA must comply with all federal regulations regarding the administration of the federal tax credit program set in federal law to ensure that the State can participate in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026. SEAA must establish any necessary rules by the later of July 1, 2026, or within 120 days of federal regulations being published.

Scholarship granting organizations can provide scholarships for home school expenses to the extent allowed under federal law.

Section 8A.19 of S.L. 2026-41 authorizes SEAA to use up to \$1 million for administering the federal tax credit for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. For any funds used to administer the federal tax credit, SEAA must report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on all of the following:

- The source or sources of funds SEAA used and the amounts from every source.
- The funds needed to support administration of the federal tax credit in the 2027-2028 fiscal year and thereafter.

House Bill 87 was vetoed by the Governor on August 6, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 3, 2026. The election to have the State participate in the federal tax credit program became effective June 3, 2026. Section 8A.19 of S.L. 2026-41 became effective July 1, 2026.

Cooperation with Federal Immigration Officials – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

SL 2026-19 (S153), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2026-19 (Senate Bill 153), as amended by Sections 5.9(b1) through 5.9(b4) of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), directs the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction (DAC), the Commander of the State Highway Patrol (SHP), and the Director of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to do all the following:

- Enter into Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) pursuant to Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1357(g)) to perform immigration law enforcement functions under the supervision of ICE.
- Develop policies requiring employees of each agency to do all the following:
 - Have employees attempt to determine if any person in the custody of or under the supervision of the agency is a legal resident or citizen of the United States by asking the person questions or examining relevant documents.
 - If an employee cannot determine a person's status by conducting the above inquiry, then the employee is required to make an ICE query.
 - If an employee determines that the person is not a legal resident or citizen of the United States, then the employee is required to provide information requested by ICE.
- Cooperate to the fullest extent allowed by law with ICE.
- Report the MOAs and policies required by this act to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than October 1, 2026.

The State Auditor is required to perform an audit to determine that agencies are complying with the above requirements and report those results to the General Assembly no later than December 31, 2026.

This act was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 24, 2026. This Part became effective June 24, 2026.

Department of Health and Human Services. – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

SL 2026-19 (S153), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2026-19 (Senate Bill 153) requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to do the following:

- Cease providing State-funded benefits and publicly funded housing benefits to noncitizens residing in the United State without legal permission to the extent permitted by federal law. "State-funded benefits" are defined to include various programs administered by DHHS or through a contract with DHHS. The term excludes benefits or

services available under the listed programs that help eligible beneficiaries access food or meals.

- Develop a plan, to the extent permitted by federal law, to update and review eligibility criteria for all State-funded benefits and publicly funded housing benefits to ensure noncitizens residing the United States without legal permission are ineligible to receive those benefits.
- Report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division on the steps taken to cease providing benefits and the details of the developed and implemented plan, including all federal statutes or regulations prohibiting denial of benefits, by January 15, 2026.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 24, 2026. This Part became effective June 24, 2026.

Housing Benefits Eligibility Verification – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

SL 2026-19 (S153), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2026-19 (Senate Bill 153), as amended by Section 5.9.(b6) of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), requires the Department of Commerce, the Housing Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities to do the following:

- Cease providing publicly funded housing benefits to noncitizens residing in the United States without legal permission to the extent permitted by federal law.
- Develop a plan, to the extent permitted by federal law, to update and review eligibility criteria for all publicly funded housing benefits to ensure noncitizens residing the United States without legal permission are ineligible to receive those benefits.
- Report by January 15, 2027, on the steps taken to cease providing benefits and the details of the developed and implemented plan including all federal statutes or regulations prohibiting denial of benefits.

This Part defines "publicly funded housing benefits" to include various programs or assistance administered by or through a contract with the Department of Commerce, the North Carolina Housing Agency, and any local housing authority.

Senate Bill 153 was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 24, 2026. This Part became effective June 24, 2026.

Unemployment Compensation – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

SL 2026-19 (S153), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2026-19 (Senate Bill 153), as amended by Section 5.9(b7) of S.L. 2026-41, requires the Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security, to the extent permitted by federal law, to adopt and implement a policy to verify that all applicants for unemployment

benefits are legally authorized to reside in the United States before receiving the first unemployment benefit payment. The policy must be adopted by January 15, 2027.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 24, 2026. This section became effective June 24, 2026.

Waiver of Local Government Immunity – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

SL 2026-19 (S153), Part V

Part V of S.L. 2026-19 (Senate Bill 153) waives governmental immunity from tort liability for local governments that adopt sanctuary ordinances when an unauthorized alien commits a crime against a person or property within its corporate limits, regardless of whether the local government has purchased liability insurance.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 24, 2026. This Part became effective June 24, 2026.

UNC Constituent Institutions to Comply with Laws Related to Immigration – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

SL 2026-19 (S153), Part VI

Part VI of S.L. 2026-19 (Senate Bill 153) prohibits constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina from having policies or regulations that limit the enforcement of federal immigration laws to less than the full extent permitted by federal law. Constituent institutions cannot (i) prevent law enforcement officials or agencies from gathering information on an individual's immigration status or (ii) prevent the communication of that information to federal law enforcement agencies.

Senate Bill 153 was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 24, 2026.

This Part became effective June 24, 2026.

Eliminating "DEI" in Public Education.

SL 2026-20 (S227)

S.L. 2026-20 (Senate Bill 227), as amended by Section 5.9(c1) of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), prohibits public school units (PSUs) and the State Board of Education (SBE) from taking certain actions related to divisive concepts and discriminatory practices.

Definitions – The following definitions apply to this act:

"Discriminatory practices" are any of the following based on an individual's protected classification under federal law:

- Treating an individual differently solely to advantage or disadvantage that individual as compared to other individuals or groups.
- Excluding an individual from employment, except as allowed under federal law.
- Excluding an individual from participation in an educational program or activity, except as allowed under federal law.

"Divisive concepts" are any of the following:

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.
- An individual is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive solely because of his or her race or sex.
- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race or sex.
- Moral character is necessarily determined by an individual's race or sex.
- An individual solely by virtue of his or her race or sex bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by members of the same race or sex.
- An individual solely by virtue of his or her race or sex should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or other psychological distress.
- A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist.
- The United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex.
- Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex.
- The rule of law does not exist but instead is a series of power relationships and struggles among racial or other groups.
- All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Governments should deny to any person within the government's jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

Prohibitions – PSUs are prohibited from doing any of the following:

- Engaging in or advocating for discriminatory practices.
- Compelling students, teachers, administrators, or other school employees to affirm or profess belief in divisive concepts.
- Providing instruction to students on divisive concepts.
- Engaging in activities related to professional development that include or advocate for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices.
- Maintaining an office or other unit (i) promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts or (ii) referred to as or named diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Employing or assigning an employee whose duties for a public school unit include promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts.

The SBE cannot approve, provide, recommend, or require professional development that includes or advocates for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices. The SBE is prohibited from awarding continuing education credit for professional educator license renewal for any professional development that includes or advocates for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices.

Exceptions – The following are not limited by this act:

- Speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- Materials accessed on an individual basis for research or independent study.
- Policies, procedures, or professional development required by State or federal law.
- Instruction on divisive concepts in accordance with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study when it is made clear that the PSU does not sponsor, approve, or endorse any divisive concepts.

Employee Policies – Local boards of education must adopt policies governing the conduct of employees that prohibit discrimination on an individual's protected classification under federal law, including antisemitism.

Student Code of Conduct – Governing bodies of PSUs must adopt Codes of Student Conduct that prohibit discrimination based on an individual's protected classification under federal law, including antisemitism.

Report – By September 1 of each year, each PSU must certify in writing to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that it fully complies with the requirements of this section and include in its certification any actions taken to achieve compliance. DPI must summarize the certifications in a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by January 15 of each year. For the certifications due by September 1, 2026, each PSU is required to include information on the initial implementation of these requirements, including reductions in force and spending, changes to job titles and position descriptions, and how savings achieved from these actions have been directed.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 24, 2026. This act became effective on June 24, 2026.

Eliminating "DEI" in Public Higher Education.

SL 2026-21 (S558)

S.L. 2026-21 (Senate Bill 558), as amended by Section 5.9(d1) of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), addresses discriminatory practices and divisive concepts at public institutions of higher education.

Discriminatory practices are defined as doing any of the following based on an individual's protected classification under federal law:

- Treating an individual differently solely to advantage or disadvantage that individual as compared to other individuals or groups.
- Excluding an individual from employment, except as allowed under federal law.
- Excluding an individual from participation in an educational program or activity, except as allowed under federal law.

Divisive concepts include any of the following concepts:

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.
- An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive.
- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex.
- An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex.
- An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.
- Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress.
- A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist.
- The United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex.
- Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex.
- The rule of law does not exist but instead is a series of power relationships and struggles among racial or other groups.
- All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Governments should deny to any person within the government's jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

Public institutions of higher education are prohibited from doing any of the following:

- Engaging in or advocating for discriminatory practices.
- Compelling students, professors, administrators, or other employees to affirm or profess belief in divisive concepts.
- Endorsing divisive concepts.
- Maintaining an office, division, or other unit (i) promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts or (ii) referred to as or named diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Employing or assigning an employee whose duties include promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts.
- Requiring completion of a course related to divisive concepts for purposes of awarding a degree or completing a program, unless approved by the chancellor of the institution and reported to the governing board of the institution.

These prohibitions do not apply to any of the following:

- Speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- Materials accessed on an individual basis for research or independent study that advocate for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices.
- Policies or procedures required by State or federal law.
- Instruction or discussion on divisive concepts that makes it clear the public institution of higher education does not endorse the divisive concepts.

Public institutions of higher education must certify annually in writing by September 1 to their applicable governing board that they fully comply with the act's requirements. The University of North Carolina Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges must summarize the relevant certifications and submit a consolidated report by January 15 annually to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. For the first certifications due September 1, 2026, public institutions of higher education must include information on the initial implementation of the requirements, including reductions in force and spending, changes to job titles and position descriptions, and how savings achieved from these actions have been directed.

The act also prohibits public institutions of higher education from establishing, maintaining, or otherwise implementing a process for reporting or investigating offensive or unwanted speech that is protected by the First Amendment, including satire or speech labeled as microaggression.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on June 24, 2026. This act became effective on June 24, 2026.

Amend Adoption Law to Facilitate E-Filing – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 1

Section 1 of House Bill 377 would have modified certain laws relating to adoption to facilitate the electronic filing of adoptions with courts and electronic transmission of adoption records to the Division of Social Services for indexing.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Clarify How a Renter-Defendant Appellant Maintains a Stay of Execution of Judgment – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 2

Section 2 of House Bill 377 would have clarified how a defendant renter maintains a stay of execution pending appeal. If the defendant continued to pay periodic rent, that payment would have satisfied and maintained the stay of execution during the 30-day time period for taking an appeal.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Modify Certain Bond Requirements. – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 3

Section 3 of House Bill 377 would have removed the requirement that the form of a first mortgage or deed of trust securing a bond in a decedent's estate be approved by the administrative officer of the courts. It also would have updated a statutory reference related to a guardian's bond.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Amend Default Judgment Provision in Divorce Proceedings – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 5

Section 5 of House Bill 377 would have clarified that the clerk of superior court can enter judgment, upon request of a plaintiff, in cases where a plaintiff's only claim against the defendant is for absolute divorce, or absolute divorce and resumption of a former name, when the defendant failed to appear.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Repeal Obsolete Provision – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 6

Section 6 of House Bill 377 would have repealed an obsolete provision regarding electronic filing in certain court cases.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17th, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 6 of House Bill 377 would become effective when it becomes law.

Clarify ASL Interpreter Payments – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 7

Section 7 of House Bill 377 would have modified the statute that governs the payment of translators for deaf individuals to provide that when the relevant proceeding is in the General Courts of Justice, the fee is set by the director of the Administrative Office of the Courts.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17th, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 7 of House Bill 377 would become effective October 1, 2026.

Clarify Certain Filings – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 8

Section 8 of House Bill 377 would have made a clarifying change regarding the filing of documents with the courts.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Allow Office of Indigent Defense Services Attorneys Electronic Access to Files – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 9

Section 9 of House Bill 377 would have modified G.S. 7A-452 which provides that when an indigent person has entered notice of appeal and appellate counsel has been appointed by the Office of Indigent Defense Services (IDS), the clerk of superior court is required to make a copy of the complete trial division file for the IDS counsel. This law would have been modified to clarify that clerks may electronically provide this file access to IDS counsel.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 9 of House Bill 377 would become effective October 1, 2026.

Modify Safekeeping Statute Related to Wills. – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 10

Section 10 of House Bill 377 would have modified the statute governing the safekeeping of wills by the clerk of superior court. It would have allowed the clerk of superior court to receive a will for safekeeping from a testator's agent if the agent had authority under a valid power of attorney. It also would have required the will to remain in the clerk's receptacle or depository until the will was offered for probate or filed with the clerk without probate.

House Bill 377 was ratified on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Clarify Use of Summonses in Caveat Proceeding. – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 12

Section 12 of House Bill 377 would have provided that upon the filing of a caveat in a probate proceeding, the caveat must be served on all interested parties in accordance with the rules of civil procedure but that a summons is not required.

House Bill 377 was ratified on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Update Safe Babies Court Language to Allow Children Up to Age 5 to Participate. – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 13

Section 13 of House Bill 377 would have increased eligibility to participate in Safe Babies Court to include families who have at least one child who is no more than 5 years of age.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Clarify Jury Commission Appointments – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 14

Section 14 of House Bill 377 would have modified the county jury commission statutes to (i) clarify that if an appointing authority does not make an appointment to the jury commission by September 1, the incumbent on the jury commission would serve for an additional two-year term, (ii) require jury commissions to prepare the master list of prospective jurors no later than November 15, and (iii) require the Commissioner of Motor vehicles to provide the list of licensed drivers to each county jury commission no later than September 1.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17th, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 14 of House Bill 377 would become effective when it becomes law.

Make Certain Changes Related to Juvenile Court Records. – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 15

Section 15 of House Bill 377 would have done the following:

- Clarified that in an abuse, neglect, or dependency action:
 - A presiding district court judge and designated court staff can inspect confidential juvenile court records.

- The recording of a hearing in the action can only be copied by order of the court.
- A person not authorized to examine the juvenile's court record without a court order could file a written motion setting out why the information is needed. A district court judge would have been authorized to issue an order to disclose the information upon finding that the order is appropriate under the circumstances and in the best interest of the juvenile or necessary for the protection of the public.
- Clarified that in a proceeding for emancipation:
 - Court records in the action are confidential, except the certificate of emancipation.
 - A party, required participants, or their attorneys can access written records in the file without a court order.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Change Effective Date for Judicial Access to Expunction Records – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 17

Section 17 of House Bill 377 would have clarified that a judge can request access to confidential expungement records maintained by the Administrative Office of the Courts to determine whether a defendant has been previously granted a discharge or an expungement regardless of when the expungement petition was filed.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 17 of House Bill 377 would become effective when it becomes law.

Change "Executive Secretary" to "Executive Director" in Conference Statute – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 18

Section 18 of House Bill 377 would have changed the title of "executive secretary" to "executive director" in the laws governing the Conference of Clerks of Superior Court.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17th, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 18 of House Bill 377 would become effective when it becomes law.

Clarify Appeal Filing Language – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 19

Section 19 of House Bill 377 would allow for electronic filing, in addition to mail or hand delivery, of an appeal as of right to the Court of Appeals from a decision by a Statewide panel on a candidate challenge for elective office.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor. House Bill 377 is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 19 of House Bill 377 would become effective on October 1, 2026.

Modify Laws Related to Frivolous Lawsuits – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 20

Section 20 of House Bill 377 would have provided that whenever a motion to proceed as an indigent is filed pro se by an inmate in the custody of the Department of Adult Correction or any sheriff in North Carolina, or whenever a motion to proceed as an indigent is filed pro se by any person or entity and the complaint is brought against a federal, State, or local government entity, or government employee in their official capacity, or government employee in their individual capacity but based on the employee's work for the government, the motion to proceed as an indigent and the complaint must be presented to any superior court judge of the judicial district. The court would have been required to dismiss the action if it was frivolous or malicious, failed to state a claim on which relief could be granted, or sought relief against a defendant who was immune from such relief. The proceeding would have been automatically stayed until the judge ruled on the motion to proceed as indigent. This section would also have allowed the clerk to reject certain filings unless the filing was accompanied by any necessary fees or a motion to proceed as indigent.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Modify Rotation of Superior Court Judges – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 21

Section 21 of House Bill 377 would have modified the statute governing the rotation and assignment of superior court judges to create a new assignment rule for the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

In assigning superior court judges for a district consisting of at least one county with a population over 1,000,000 people, the Chief Justice would have been required to include superior court judges from (i) other districts in that same judicial division and (ii) districts from any judicial division adjacent to the division with the district consisting of at least one county with a population over 1,000,000.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 21 of House Bill 377 would become effective January 1, 2027, and apply to rotations on or after that date.

Administrative Office of the Courts and Office of Indigent Defense Services Reports and Recommendations – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 26

Section 26 of House Bill 377 would have required that the Administrative Office of the Courts and Office of Indigent Defense Services submit certain reports.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17th, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 26 of House Bill 377 would become effective when it becomes law.

Amend Procedure for Determining Elective Share. – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 27.1

Section 27.1 of House Bill 377 would have amended the procedure for determining the elective share to provide that the summons and claims in the petition must relate back to the date of the filing of the petition. It would have specified that the requirement that a summons be issued within five days of the filing of the petition under Rule 4(a) of the Rules of Civil Procedure does not apply. This section also would have made other technical and organizational changes.

House Bill 377 was ratified on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Technical Corrections to Estate Planning Statutes. – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 27.4

Section 27.4 of House Bill 377 would clarify that revocation of provisions in a revocable trust by divorce or annulment do not apply when the settlor executes a subsequent amendment to the revocable trust, which makes express references to the revocable trust, and which modifies the revocable trust.

House Bill 377 was ratified on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026.

Allow Suspension of Trial Court Judges Pending Investigation – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 28

Section 28 of House Bill 377 would have modified laws regarding the Judicial Standards Commission to allow suspension of trial judges pending investigations into misconduct. A new definition of a "trial judge" would have been created and would include "any judge who is serving in the Superior Court Division or District Court Division of the General Court of Justice of North Carolina, including any retired justice or judge who is recalled for service as an emergency judge of the Superior Court Division or District Court Division of the General Court of Justice." A new procedure would then have been created that would allow a trial judge to be suspended if during the pendency of an investigation the Judicial Standards Commission found that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage would result by the trial judge remaining in office.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17th, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 28 of House Bill 377 would become effective when it becomes law.

Add Trial Court Administrator and Staff to Definition of Court Officer – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 29

Section 29 of House Bill 377 would have added trial court administrators and judicial support staff to the definition of "court officer." This would have made Article 5A of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes (Endangering Executive, Legislative, Court, and Local Elected Officers) apply to these individuals. Article 5A provides for increased punishments for assaulting or threatening covered individuals.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17th, 2026 and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, House Bill 377 would become effective December 1, 2026, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Drug-Free Homeless Service Zones – Drug-Free Zones/Unauthorized Public Camping.

Ratified (H437), Sec. 1

Section 1 of House Bill 437 would have created a Class E felony for anyone who manufactures, sells, or delivers a controlled substance in a drug-free homeless service zone if the person knows or reasonably should know it is a drug-free homeless service zone and a Class H felony for any

operator of a facility-based service that intentionally allows a person to manufacture, sell, or deliver a controlled substance in a drug-free homeless service zone.

House Bill 437 was ratified on July 1, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Section 1 of House Bill 437 would become effective on December 1, 2026, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Unauthorized Public Camping – Drug-Free Zones/Unauthorized Public Camping.

Ratified (H437), Sec. 2

Section 2 of House Bill 437 would have done the following:

- Defined "public camping or sleeping."
- Prohibited a local government from authorizing or otherwise allowing any person to regularly engage in public camping or sleeping on any public property.
- Permitted, by majority vote of the local government's governing board, the designation of property owned by the local government to be used for a continuous period of no longer than one year for the purposes of public camping or sleeping. The local government would have been required to establish and maintain minimum standards and procedures for the purposes of:
 - Ensuring the safety and security of the designated property and the people lodging or residing on the property.
 - Maintaining sanitation.
 - Coordinating with the appropriate department, agency, or entity to provide access to behavioral health services, which must include substance abuse and mental health treatment resources.
 - Prohibiting illegal substance use and alcohol use.
- Provided that the local government's designation of property for camping or sleeping would not have become effective until certified by the Department of Labor (Department). To obtain certification, the local government would have been required to submit a request to the Commissioner of Labor documenting proof of certain conditions.
- Required the Department to certify the designated property within 45 days after the receipt of complete submission from the local government. If the Department took no action, the designated property would have been deemed certified on the 45th day.
- Required that the local government publish the required minimum standards and procedures on the local government's website within 30 days after certification of the designated property.
- Provided that the Department could inspect any designated property at any time and had to provide notice to the local government recommending closure of the designated property if the requirements for public camping and sleeping on designated property were no longer satisfied. A local government would have been required to publish any

notice recommending closure on the local government's website not later than five business days after receipt of the notice.

- Provided that any resident or business owner of the local government, or the Attorney General, could bring a civil action against the local government to enjoin a violation of the requirements for public camping or sleeping on designated property.
- Required that an application for an injunction be accompanied by an affidavit attesting to certain information.
- Provided that the prohibition on public camping or sleeping without designation of property for that purpose would not apply during a period in which the Governor or a local government has declared a state of emergency.
- Required the Department, by June 30, 2027, to adopt rules necessary to implement these provisions.

House Bill 437 was ratified by the General Assembly on July 1, 2026, and vetoed by the Governor on July 8, 2026.

Administrative Matters – Election Law Changes.

Ratified (H958), Part I

Part I of House Bill 958 would have made the following changes with respect to election administration matters:

- Clarify that a county board of elections (county board) can suspend or remove precinct officials at any time, including throughout the day of a primary or election, authorize a county board to prohibit a precinct official from serving in any subsequent election, specify training requirements for precinct officials, and require county boards to appoint at least four emergency election-day assistants. (Section 1.1)
- Authorize a nonpartisan candidate to designate one registered voter to serve as an observer at each voting place where the candidate would appear on the ballot for a municipal election, special district election, or local board of education election. (Section 1.2)
- Require the primary for any municipal nonpartisan primary and election and the first election for any municipal nonpartisan election and runoff to be held on the second Tuesday after Labor Day of the odd-numbered year, with the election or runoff, if needed, to be held in November of that odd-numbered year. (Section 1.3)
- Require a candidate filing in a party primary to be affiliated with that political party for at least 365 days as of the date of filing rather than 90 days, unless a waiver is granted by the State executive committee of that political party or the political party has been recognized by the State for less than two years. (Section 1.4)
- Clarify that counties, cities, and local boards of education must use only the most recent federal decennial census data when establishing or revising electoral district boundaries. (Section 1.5)

House Bill 958 was ratified on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Part I of House Bill 958 would become effective on January 1, 2027.

Registration of Voters – Election Law Changes.

Ratified (H958), Part II

Part II of House Bill 958 would have made the following changes regarding maintaining a list of eligible voters in this State:

- Require the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide full social security numbers to the State Board of Elections on a routine basis of no later than the fifteenth day of each month. (Section 2.1)
- Require the State Board of Elections to forward any voter registration applications to the appropriate county board of elections in a timely manner, or within 5 business days of receipt if received by the State Board of Elections within 100 days before an election. (Section 2.2)
- Require the Executive Director of the State Board of Elections to use information received from a federal agency to identify registered voters who are deceased and provide those identified names to the county boards of election within one week of receipt. The county boards of elections would be required to remove the names of the deceased voters from their voter registration records within one week of receipt of the names, and the State Board of Elections must confirm that those names were removed. (Section 2.3)
- Provide that any voter registration received from other states pursuant to a data sharing agreement with that state is not a public record. (Section 2.3)
- Require the State Board of Elections to create a process for removing non-eligible citizens from the voter registration records if the registered voter appears on information received by the State Board of Elections from a federal database on or after January 1, 2026, and a challenge has not yet been entered against the registered voter. (Section 2.3)
- Prohibit any employee of the Department of Motor Vehicles or a public agency offering voter registration services from proceeding with a voter registration application unless the applicant affirmatively indicates that he or she is a citizen of the United States. (Section 2.4)
- Require that a county board of elections only process a voter registration application that affirmatively indicates that the applicant is a citizen of the United States. If a county board of elections receives a voter registration application with no answer indicated as to the question of whether the applicant is a citizen of the United States, the county board of elections would be required to send the applicant a form, to be completed under penalty of perjury, for the applicant to indicate whether he or she is a citizen of the United States. If the form is completed and returned by the applicant within 30 days of the mailing, the county board of elections would proceed with the voter registration application accordingly. (Section 2.4)

House Bill 958 was ratified on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Part II of House Bill 958 would become effective on January 1, 2027, and apply to voter registration applications processed on or after that date.

Conduct of Elections – Election Law Changes.

Ratified (H958), Part III

Part III of House Bill 958 would make the following changes with respect to the conduct of elections:

- Reduce the number of early one-stop voting days for primaries, second primaries, and runoff elections, from 17 days to 10 days, and set the number of early one-stop voting days for congressional vacancies, special elections, and municipal elections (if early voting is authorized by the municipality) at 10 days. (Section 3.1)
- Allow ballots cast during early one-stop voting to be challenged no later than 5:00 P.M. on the third business day after the election (Friday). (Section 3.2)
- Require the State Auditor to randomly select counties to conduct post-election audits of election systems and controls after each general election, with all county boards of elections being audited at least once every six years; authorize election officials to be present during the audit; and require the State Auditor to produce annual reports of the audits conducted and make them accessible on the Office of the State Auditor's website in perpetuity. (Section 3.3)

House Bill 958 was ratified on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Part III of House Bill 958 would become effective on January 1, 2027, and apply to elections held on or after that date.

Campaign Finance Revisions – Election Law Changes.

Ratified (H958), Part IV

Part IV of House Bill 958 would have made the following changes to campaign finance reporting requirements:

- Increase the reporting thresholds as follows:
 - For nonmedia expenditures and monetary contributions to be made with a verifiable form of payment: from \$50 to \$100. (Section 4.1)
 - For candidates for county office, municipal office, local school board office, soil and water conservation district board of supervisors, or sanitary district board with contributions, loans, and expenditures to be exempted from reporting requirements: from \$1,000 to \$5,000. (Section 4.2)
 - For when independent expenditures must be reported: from \$100 to \$1,000. (Section 4.3)
 - For when 48-hour reports are required: from \$1,000 to \$2,000. (Section 4.4)

- Provide that the exemption for campaign sales would include political party committees. For this purpose a political party committee would be defined as a political party executive committee or any group established by a political party including men, women, college, teen, senior, young, African American, and Hispanic clubs or organizations. The purchase price of goods or services sold by a political party executive committee or an affiliated party committee is not considered a campaign contribution, in that these are not subject to the account-keeping or reporting requirements required for campaign contributions and are not subject to the limit on campaign contributions. (Section 4.5)

House Bill 958 was ratified on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor on August 17, 2026, and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, Part IV of House Bill 958 would become effective on January 1, 2027, and apply to the purchase price of goods or services sold by a political party committee or an affiliated party committee on or after that date.