

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 848

Short Title: Study Duplicative/Obsolete Criminal Statutes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives John, Everitt, Brown, and Martin (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 5, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CREATE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE CRIMINAL LAWS STUDY  
3 COMMITTEE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is established the Joint Legislative Criminal Laws Study  
6 Committee (Committee). The purpose of the Committee is to review North Carolina's criminal  
7 laws to determine the following:

- 8 (1) Which are duplicative and therefore should be repealed.  
9 (2) Whether certain lower level offenses, such as traffic offenses, regulatory  
10 offenses, and low-level Schedule IV controlled substance offenses, should be  
11 reclassified or decriminalized.

12 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Committee shall consist of eight members as follows:

- 13 (1) Four members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the  
14 Senate, two from the majority party and two from the minority party.  
15 (2) Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of  
16 the House of Representatives, two from the majority party and two from the  
17 minority party.

18 **SECTION 1.(c)** The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
19 House of Representatives shall each appoint a cochair of the Committee. The cochairs shall call  
20 the initial meeting of the Committee within 60 days of this act becoming law. A quorum of the  
21 Committee is a majority of its members. The appointing authority shall fill vacancies. Any of the  
22 following constitutes a vacancy: resignation from the Committee, failure to be reelected to the  
23 General Assembly, or resignation or removal from service in the General Assembly.

24 **SECTION 1.(d)** Members of the Committee shall receive per diem, subsistence, and  
25 travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1.

26 **SECTION 1.(e)** Subject to the approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the  
27 Committee may meet in the State Legislative Building, the Legislative Office Building, or any  
28 other appropriate location within the State. The Legislative Services Commission, through the  
29 Legislative Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist in the work of the Committee.  
30 The House of Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign  
31 clerical staff to the Committee, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne  
32 by the Committee. The Committee, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all  
33 the powers provided under G.S. 120-19, including the power to request all officers, agents,  
34 agencies, and departments of the State to provide any information, data, or documents within  
35 their possession, ascertainable from their records, or otherwise available to them.



1           **SECTION 1.(f)** The Committee shall submit a final report, including findings and  
2 legislative recommendations, to the Joint Legislative Committee on Justice and Public Safety  
3 and to the Joint Legislative Committee on Health and Human Services no later than April 1,  
4 2022. The Committee shall terminate upon the earlier of April 1, 2022, or submission of the  
5 report.

6           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.