

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 1242

Short Title: Modernize Law of the Land Clause. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Cook and Greenfield (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

July 1, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND ARTICLE I, SECTION 19, OF THE NORTH CAROLINA  
CONSTITUTION TO MODERNIZE THE LANGUAGE OF THE LAW OF THE LAND  
CLAUSE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** Article I, Section 19, of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
rewritten:

**"Sec. 19. Law of the land; equal protection of the laws.**

No person shall be taken, imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties, or privileges, or  
outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the law of  
the land. No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be  
subjected to discrimination by the State because of race, color, religion, or national origin."

**SECTION 1.(b)** The amendment set out in Section 1(a) of this act shall be submitted  
to the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election to be held on November 3,  
2026, which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections at that  
time. The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

"[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

Constitutional amendment to modernize the language of the law of the land clause in  
Article I, Section 19, of the North Carolina Constitution."

**SECTION 1.(c)** The State Board of Elections shall certify the results of the  
referendum conducted under Section 1(b) of this act. If a majority of votes cast on the question  
are in favor of the amendment set out in Section 1(a) of this act, the Secretary of State shall enroll  
the amendment among the permanent records of that office. If a majority of votes cast on the  
question are against the amendment set out in Section 1(a) of this act, the amendment shall have  
no effect.

**SECTION 1.(d)** If the certification from the State Board of Elections under Section  
1(c) of this act reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment  
set out in Section 1(a) of this act, the amendment set out in Section 1(a) of this act is effective  
upon certification.

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

