

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 646

Short Title: Const. Amend.: Remove Slavery as Punishment. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Buansi, Charles Smith, A. Jones, and T. Brown (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

April 2, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE ABSOLUTE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST SLAVERY AND  
3 INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE IN THE STATE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 17 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution reads as  
6 rewritten:

7 "**Sec. 17. Slavery and involuntary servitude.**

8 Slavery is forever prohibited. Involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime  
9 whereof the parties have been adjudged guilty, is and involuntary servitude are forever  
10 prohibited."

11 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to  
12 the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2026,  
13 which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections at that time.  
14 The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

15 "[ ] FOR [ ] AGAINST

16 Constitutional amendment providing that slavery and involuntary servitude are  
17 forever prohibited."

18 **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Elections shall certify the results of the referendum  
19 conducted under Section 2 of this act. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of  
20 the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment  
21 among the permanent records of that office. If a majority of votes cast on the question are against  
22 the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the amendment shall have no effect.

23 **SECTION 4.** If the certification from the State Board of Elections under Section 3  
24 of this act reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment set  
25 out in Section 1 of this act, the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act is effective upon  
26 certification.

27 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
28 law.



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