

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 442  
Second Edition Engrossed 5/7/25

Short Title: Parents Protection Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Burgin, Galey, and Sawrey (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 25, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO LAWS AFFECTING THE CARE OF  
3 JUVENILES AND THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** The title of Article 1 of Subchapter I of Chapter 7B of the General  
6 Statutes reads as rewritten:

7 "Article 1.

8 "Purposes; ~~Definitions.~~Definitions; Limitation."

9 **SECTION 1.(b)** Article 1 of Subchapter I of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes is  
10 amended by adding a new section to read:

11 "**§ 7B-102. Limitation.**

12 A parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker who raises a juvenile consistent with the juvenile's  
13 biological sex, or who refers to a juvenile consistent with the juvenile's biological sex, shall not  
14 be subject to a petition supporting abuse or neglect under this Subchapter based solely on those  
15 acts. This section shall not be construed to authorize or allow any other acts or omissions  
16 prohibited by this Subchapter that would constitute abuse or neglect, including abandonment or  
17 the creation of an injurious environment."

18 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 48-3-203 reads as rewritten:

19 "**§ 48-3-203. Agency placement adoption.**

20 (a) An agency may acquire legal and physical custody of a minor for purposes of adoptive  
21 placement only by means of a relinquishment pursuant to Part 7 of this Article or by a court order  
22 terminating the rights and duties of a parent or guardian of the minor.

23 (a1) No agency shall deny or delay (i) the opportunity to become an adoptive parent or (ii)  
24 the placement of a child for adoption on the basis of ~~race~~, any of the following:

25 (1) Race, color, or national origin of the person or the child involved.

26 (2) The adoptive parents' refusal, unwillingness, or lack of support to enable the  
27 child to engage in a gender transition.

28 ...."

29 **SECTION 1.(d)** Subsection (b) of this section is effective when it becomes law and  
30 applies to petitions filed before, on, or after that date. Subsection (c) of this section is effective  
31 when it becomes law and applies to petitions and placements for adoption and opportunities to  
32 become an adoptive parent requested, filed, or submitted before, on, or after that date. The  
33 remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

34 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 14-318.2 reads as rewritten:

35 "**§ 14-318.2. Child abuse a misdemeanor.**

36 ...



1       (d) Any parent of a child less than 18 years of age, or any other person providing care to  
2 or supervision of the child, is not guilty of a violation of this section for raising a child consistent  
3 with the child's biological sex, including referring to a child consistent with the child's biological  
4 sex, and making related mental health or medical decisions based on the child's biological sex.  
5 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or allow any other acts or omissions  
6 that would constitute a violation under this section, including the infliction of serious physical  
7 injury or the creation of a substantial risk of physical injury."

8               **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 14-318.4 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 14-318.4. Child abuse a felony.**

10       ...

11       (c1) Any parent of a child less than 18 years of age, or any other person providing care to  
12 or supervision of the child, is not guilty of a violation of this section for raising a child consistent  
13 with the child's biological sex, including referring to a child consistent with the child's biological  
14 sex, and making related mental health or medical decisions based on the child's biological sex.  
15 Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or allow any other acts or omissions  
16 that would constitute a violation under this section, including the infliction of serious bodily  
17 injury or serious physical injury.

18       (d) The following definitions apply in this section:

19               (1) Serious bodily injury. – Bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death  
20               or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, a permanent or  
21               protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent or protracted loss  
22               or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results  
23               in prolonged hospitalization.

24               (2) Serious physical injury. – Physical injury that causes great pain and suffering.  
25               The term includes serious mental injury. For purposes of this subdivision, a  
26 parent raising a child consistent with the child's biological sex does not  
27 constitute serious mental injury."

28               **SECTION 2.(c)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2025, and applies to offenses  
29 committed before, on, or after that date.

30               **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
31 law.