

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 801
Judiciary Committee Substitute Adopted 6/17/26

Short Title: Protect Special Ops Forces/No Doxing.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 22, 2026

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM PUBLIC RECORDS REQUIREMENTS THE DISCLOSURE
3 OF IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION INFORMATION OF CERTAIN CURRENT
4 AND FORMER MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, CREATING A
5 PILOT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO PARTICIPATE IN
6 THE ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM, AND ENACTING THE CIVIL
7 LIABILITY FOR DOXING ACT.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1.(a) Chapter 132 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
10 section to read:

11 "**§ 132-1.15. Identification and location information of current and former military
12 personnel exempted from disclosure.**

13 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

14 (1) Identification and location information or information. – Includes the
15 following:

16 a. Home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of current and
17 former military personnel and the telephone numbers associated with
18 the personal communication devices of current and former military
19 personnel.

20 b. Home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of the spouses
21 and dependents of current and former military personnel, and the
22 telephone numbers associated with the personal communication
23 devices of such spouses and dependents.

24 c. Names and locations of schools attended by the spouses of current and
25 former military personnel and schools or daycare facilities attended by
26 dependents of current and former military personnel.

27 (2) Military personnel. – Persons employed by the United States Department of
28 Defense who are authorized to access information deemed "secret" or "top
29 secret" by the federal government or persons who are servicemembers of a
30 special operations force.

31 (3) Special operations force. – The active and reserve component forces of the
32 United States military services, designated by the Secretary of War or
33 Secretary of Defense, and specifically organized, trained, and equipped to
34 conduct and support special operations. The term includes servicemembers of
35 the United States Army Special Forces and the United States Army 75th
36 Ranger Regiment; the United States Navy SEALs and Special Warfare



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1 Combatant-Craft Crewmen; the United States Air Force Combat Control,
2 Pararescue, and Tactical Air Control Party specialists; the United States
3 Marine Corps Critical Skills Operators; and any other component of the
4 United States Special Operations Command.

5 (4) State agency. – A unit of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of State
6 government, such as a department, institution, division, commission, board,
7 council, community college, or The University of North Carolina system. The
8 term includes a unit of local government as defined in G.S. 143C-1-1.

9 (b) Findings. – The General Assembly finds that:

10 (1) Military personnel perform among the most critical, most effective, and most
11 dangerous operations in defense of our nation's freedom.

12 (2) Terrorist groups, insurgents, and hostile nations have threatened military
13 personnel and their families and have encouraged actions to harm military
14 personnel and their families within the United States. Such actions can
15 intimidate communities, demoralize military families, and potentially weaken
16 operations.

17 (3) Allowing continued public access to the identification and location
18 information of current and former military personnel and their families
19 jeopardizes the safety of these personnel, their spouses, and their dependents.

20 (4) Protecting the safety and security of current and former military personnel,
21 and their spouses and dependents, outweighs any public benefit that may be
22 derived from the public disclosure of the identification and location
23 information.

24 (c) Information Protected. – Identification and location information held by a State
25 agency is confidential, not a public record as defined by G.S. 132-1, and shall be exempt from
26 disclosure under this Chapter when the current or former military personnel member submits the
27 following to the State agency that has custody of the identification and location information:

28 (1) A written request to exempt the member's identification and location
29 information from public disclosure; and

30 (2) A written statement that the member has made reasonable efforts to protect
31 the identification and location information from being accessible through
32 other means available to the public.

33 (d) The head of each State agency shall ensure that current and archived identification
34 and location information is removed as soon as practicable from the State agency website in
35 conformity with the requirements of this section."

36 **SECTION 1.(b)** The provisions of this section apply to identification and location
37 information as defined in G.S. 132-1.15, as enacted by this act, held by a custodian before, on,
38 or after the effective date of this act.

39 **SECTION 2.(a)** The Department of Justice shall study extending coverage under
40 Chapter 15C of the General Statutes (Address Confidentiality Program) to military personnel as
41 defined in G.S. 132-1.15, as enacted by this act. The Department of Justice shall complete the
42 study and report its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly and Fiscal Research
43 Division by October 1, 2027.

44 **SECTION 2.(b)** Notwithstanding Chapter 15C of the General Statutes, during the
45 period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, the Attorney General may authorize
46 participation in the Address Confidentiality Program by military personnel, as defined in
47 G.S. 132-1.15, for the purpose of evaluating program administration, participant demand,
48 resource needs, and other implementation considerations associated with a potential expansion
49 of program eligibility. Participation authorized under this subsection shall be subject to any
50 procedures and requirements established by the Attorney General.

1 Examples include, without limitation, changing a phone number, changing an
2 electronic mail address, deleting personal electronic accounts, significantly
3 decreasing use of the internet, moving from an established residence,
4 changing daily routines, changing routes to and from work, changing
5 employment or work schedule, or losing time from work or a job.

6 **§ 1-671. Civil liability for doxing.**

7 (a) Doxing is unlawful. A person may be held civilly liable for publishing an individual's
8 identification and location information under the following circumstances:

- 9 (1) Without the express consent of the individual whose information is published
10 with intent or knowledge that the information will be used to harm the
11 individual whose information is published; or
12 (2) In reckless disregard of the risk that the information will be used to harm the
13 individual whose information is published; and
14 (3) The publication causes the individual whose information is published to suffer
15 one or more of the following:
16 a. Physical injury.
17 b. Significant economic injury.
18 c. Mental anguish.
19 d. Fear of serious bodily injury or death for themselves or a close relation
20 to themselves.
21 e. A substantial life disruption.

22 (b) A person is not civilly liable for providing identification and location information as
23 follows:

- 24 (1) When reporting criminal activity, which the person making the report
25 reasonably believes occurred, to an employee of a law enforcement agency,
26 intelligence agency, or other government agency in the United States; or in
27 connection with any existing investigative, protective, or intelligence activity
28 of any law enforcement agency, intelligence agency, or other government
29 agency in the United States. This subdivision only applies if the person
30 providing the information reasonably believes it to be accurate and provides
31 the information in good faith and not for a malicious, fraudulent, or unlawful
32 purpose.
33 (2) In connection with an exercise of the right of freedom of speech or of the
34 press, the right to assemble or petition, or the right of association, guaranteed
35 by the United States Constitution or North Carolina Constitution.
36 (3) To, or in the course of acting as, or on behalf of the news media.
37 (4) When required to do so by any federal, State, or local law or regulation, or
38 court rule or court order. This subdivision only applies if the person providing
39 the information reasonably believes it to be accurate and provides the
40 information in good faith and not for a malicious, fraudulent, or unlawful
41 purpose.
42 (5) In connection with a lawful requirement for a court filing or recording,
43 including recording judgments or filing liens, unless otherwise specifically
44 allowed by law.
45 (6) Under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and Consumer Financial Protection
46 Bureau Regulation P, 12 C.F.R. Part 1016, consistent with privacy policy
47 disclosures provided pursuant to that regulation.
48 (7) In compliance with the Fair Credit Reporting Act (15 U.S.C. § 1681 et seq.);
49 or the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (91 Stat. 874; 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et
50 seq.).

- 1 (8) In a consumer alert or public notice arising from a regulatory, civil, or criminal
2 investigation, complaint, or enforcement action. This subdivision only applies
3 to publications made by government agencies.
- 4 (9) Within or to a government agency, corporation, company, partnership, labor
5 union, or another legal entity, or to any employees or agents thereof, but only
6 if all of the following requirements are satisfied:
- 7 a. The information is provided for a legitimate and lawful purpose,
8 including, without limitation, the reporting of criminal or fraudulent
9 activity, facilitating a lawful commercial transaction, or furthering an
10 existing business relationship.
- 11 b. The personal identifying information is provided through a private
12 channel of communication and is not provided to the public.
- 13 c. The person providing the personal information:
- 14 1. Reasonably believes it to be accurate; or
15 2. Has reasonable suspicion to believe it is being used
16 fraudulently; and
17 3. The person providing the personal identifying information
18 provides it in good faith, and not for a malicious or fraudulent
19 purpose.
- 20 (10) On behalf of a State agency under exigent circumstances if the information
21 was provided in a manner legally permitted under federal or State law.
- 22 (c) It is not a defense that the identification and location information at issue was
23 voluntarily given to the publisher, has been previously publicly disclosed, or is readily
24 discoverable through research or investigation.
- 25 (d) This section is not intended to allow actions to be brought for constitutionally
26 protected activity.
- 27 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed in any manner to:
- 28 (1) Conflict with 47 U.S.C. § 230;
29 (2) Conflict with 42 U.S.C. § 1983; or
30 (3) Prohibit any activity protected under the Constitution of the United States or
31 the North Carolina Constitution.
- 32 (f) An individual whose identification and location information is published in violation
33 of this Article may bring a civil action against (i) the person or persons who published the
34 personal identifying information and (ii) any person who knowingly benefits, financially or by
35 receiving anything of value, from participation in a venture that the person knew or should have
36 known has engaged in an act in violation of this Article.
- 37 (g) A prevailing claimant who brings a civil action pursuant to this Article is entitled to
38 recover any or all of the following remedies upon request: (i) compensatory damages, (ii)
39 punitive damages, (iii) statutory damages of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation, (iv)
40 costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, (v) injunctive relief, and (vi) any other relief deemed
41 appropriate by the court.
- 42 (h) When an action is brought under this Article, a court may, on its own motion or upon
43 the motion of any party, issue a temporary restraining order, or a temporary or permanent
44 injunction, to restrain and prevent the disclosure or continued disclosure of a party's personal
45 identifying information.
- 46 (i) A civil action may be brought in any county in which an element of any violation of
47 this Article occurred, or in which an individual resides who is the subject of the information
48 published in violation of this Article.
- 49 "**§ 1-672. Severability.**"

1 If any section or provision of this Article is declared unconstitutional or invalid by the courts,
2 it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part other than the part so declared to
3 be unconstitutional or invalid."

4 **SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
5 law.