

Editor's Preface

North Carolina Legislation is a comprehensive summary of legislation enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly. This year's edition is the forty-first of these annual summaries published by the UNC Chapel Hill School of Government's Institute of Government. From 1955 through 1973, the summaries were included in special issues of *Popular Government*. Since 1974 they have been published annually in a separate book.

North Carolina Legislation 2004 is intended to cover all legislation enacted by the General Assembly in 2004 that may be of interest and importance to state and local government officials. The book is divided into twenty-three chapters according to subject matter. In some instances, to provide different emphases or points of view, the same legislation is discussed in more than one chapter. With one exception, each chapter was written by a School of Government faculty member having expertise in the particular subject discussed. The exception is Chapter 23, "State Taxation," which was written by members of the General Assembly's professional staff.

The text of all bills discussed in this book may be viewed on the Internet at the General Assembly's Web site: <http://www.ncleg.net>. This site also includes a detailed legislative history of all action taken on each bill and, for some bills, a summary of the fiscal impact of the bill.

Though comprehensive, this book does not summarize every legislative enactment of the 2004 General Assembly. For example, some important legislation, such as that involving business regulation or insurance, does not substantially impact state or local government and is therefore not discussed at all. Local legislation of importance to a single jurisdiction is usually given only brief coverage. Readers who need information about public bills not covered in this book may wish to consult *Summaries of Substantive Ratified Legislation, 2004 General Assembly*, which contains brief summaries of all public laws enacted during the session. This compilation is published by the General Assembly's Research Division and posted on the Internet at the General Assembly's Web site. A list of General Statutes affected by 2004 legislation, prepared by the General Assembly's Bill Drafting Division, is also online at this site.

The Institute of Government also publishes two separate reports, *Final Disposition of Bills* and the *Index of Legislation*, that provide additional information with respect to public and local bills considered in 2004. These publications can be purchased through the School of Government Publications Sales Office (telephone: 919-966-4119; e-mail: sales@iogmail.iog.unc.edu).

Each day the General Assembly is in session, the Institute's Legislative Reporting Service publishes the *Daily Bulletin*. The *Daily Bulletin* includes summaries written by Institute of Government faculty

members of every bill and resolution introduced in the House and Senate and of all amendments and committee substitutes adopted by the House and Senate, as well as a daily report of all legislative action taken on the floor of both chambers. The *Daily Bulletin* is available by paid subscription, with delivery via U.S. mail, fax, or e-mail. For information about subscriptions, contact the School of Government Publications Sales Office.

Throughout this book, references to legislation enacted during the 2004 session are cited by the Session Law number of the act (for example, S.L. 2004-148), followed by a parenthetical reference to the number of the Senate or House bill that was enacted (for example, S 1136). Generally, the effective date of new legislation is not noted if it is prior to the production date of this book. References to the General Statutes of North Carolina are abbreviated as G.S. (for example, G.S. 105-374).

William A. Campbell