

Editor's Preface

Since 1955 the UNC Chapel Hill School of Government's Institute of Government has published periodic summaries of legislation enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly. Initially these summaries were published in special issues of *Popular Government*. Beginning in 1974, however, the Institute began publishing the summaries annually as a separate book, *North Carolina Legislation*.

North Carolina Legislation 2005 is the forty-second of these summaries and deals with newly enacted legislation of interest and importance to state and local government officials. It is organized by subject matter and divided into twenty-six chapters. In some instances, to provide different emphases or points of view, the same legislation is discussed in more than one chapter. Each chapter was written by a School of Government professional staff or faculty member with expertise in the particular field addressed.

The text of all bills discussed in this book may be viewed on the Internet at the General Assembly's Web site: 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 bill's fiscal impact. Subscribers to the *Daily Bulletin* have Web access to complete digests for every version of each bill from 1987 through the current session, at dailybulletin.unc.edu/.

Albeit comprehensive, this book does not summarize every legislative enactment of the 2005 General Assembly. For example, some important legislation that does not have a substantial impact on state or local governments, such as that involving business regulation or insurance, is not discussed at all. Local legislation, if addressed, often is treated only briefly. Readers who need information on public bills not covered in this book may wish to consult *Summaries of Substantive Ratified Legislation, 2005 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 at www.ncleg.net/LegislativePublications/researchdivisio_/summariesofsubs_/. A list of General Statutes affected by 2005 legislation, prepared by the General Assembly's Bill Drafting Division, is online at the same site, at www.ncleg.net/LegislativePublications/billdraftingdiv_/billsslsandncgs_/.

The Institute of Government also publishes a separate report, the *Index of Legislation*, that provides additional information with respect to public and private bills considered in 2005, including (1) status reports for all public bills and resolutions; (2) status reports for all ratified public bills and resolutions, which are arranged by General Statutes chapter or special category; (3) index of public bills, arranged by number; (4) status reports for local bills, arranged by counties affected; (5) index of local bills, arranged by bill number; and (6) chronological listing of all bills (public and local) and

resolutions ratified in 2005. This publication can be purchased through the School of Government Publications Sales Office (telephone: 919-966-4119; e-mail: sales@iogmail.iog.unc.edu; Web: www.sogpubs.unc.edu/books.php?cat=14).

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 School of Government professional staff and faculty members of every bill and resolution introduced in the state House of Representatives and Senate; summaries of all amendments, committee substitutes, and conference reports adopted by the House or Senate; and 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 fax or e-mail and on the Web. For information about subscriptions, contact the School of Government Publications Sales Office (telephone: 919-966-4119; e-mail: sales@iogmail.iog.unc.edu; Web: www.sogpubs.unc.edu/books.php?cat=14).

Throughout the book, references to legislation enacted during the 2005 session are cited by the Session Law number of the act (for example, S.L. 2005-105), followed by a parenthetical reference to the number of the Senate or House bill that was enacted (for example, S 236). Generally the effective date of new legislation is not noted if it is before 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).

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