

Editor's Preface

Since 1933 the UNC Chapel Hill School of Government has published post-session summaries of legislation enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly. Initially these summaries appeared in special issues of *Popular Government* and, from 1951 through 1967, were supplemented by a handbook listing the legislative changes in order of statute number. The *Popular Government* format was replaced in 1974 by the current *North Carolina Legislation* book, published annually.

North Carolina Legislation 2008 is the forty-fifth 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-seven 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 the exception of the State Taxation chapter, which was written by General Assembly Research Division staff) with expertise in the particular field addressed.

The text of all bills discussed in this book may be viewed at the General Assembly's website: 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 www.dailybulletin.unc.edu/.

Albeit comprehensive, this book does not summarize every enactment of the 2008 legislative session. For example, some important legislation that does not have a substantial impact on state or local governments 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 for 2008*, 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 at the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net under the Research Division section of the Legislative Publications page. A list of General Statutes and Session Laws affected by 2008 legislation, prepared by the General Assembly's Bill Drafting Division, is online at the same site under the Bill Drafting Division section of the Legislative Publications page.

The School of Government also electronically publishes a separate report, the *Index of Legislation*, that provides additional information with respect to public and private bills considered in 2008, 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) an index of public bills, arranged by number; (4) status reports for local bills, arranged by counties affected; (5) an index of local bills, arranged by bill number; and (6) a chronological listing of all bills (public and local) and resolutions ratified in 2008. This publication can be purchased through the School of Government Publications Sales Office (telephone: 919.966.4119; e-mail: sales@sog.unc.edu; website: <http://shopping.netsuite.com/s.nl/c.433425/it.A/id.1123/f?sc=7&category=4157>).

Each day the General Assembly is in session, the School of Government'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 filed 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 by both chambers. The *Daily Bulletin* is available by paid subscription, with delivery via 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@sog.unc.edu; website: <http://shopping.netsuite.com/s.nl/c.433425/sc.7/category.27/f>).

Throughout the book, references to legislation enacted during the 2008 session are cited by the Session Law number of the act (for example, S.L. 2008-245), followed by a parenthetical reference to the number of the Senate or House bill that was enacted (for example, H 1231). 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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