The General Assembly

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Director, Legislative Reporting Service



Outline

- Legislative Institution
- Legislative Sessions
- Legislative Process
- All About Bills & What Makes Local Bills Special?
- How to Find What You Need

The Legislative Institution



The General Assembly

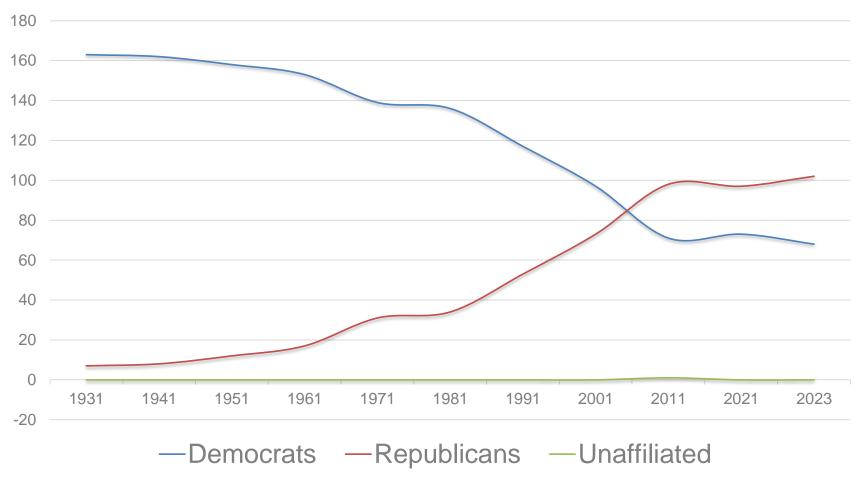
- Legislative Power Vested in Bicameral Legislature
 - 50-member Senate
 - 120-member House
 - Serve 2-year terms
 - Districts based on population
 - Once established, districts cannot be altered until next census except by court order
 - Maps for House, Senate, and Congress were redrawn in 2023

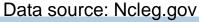
What type of folks are in the General Assembly?





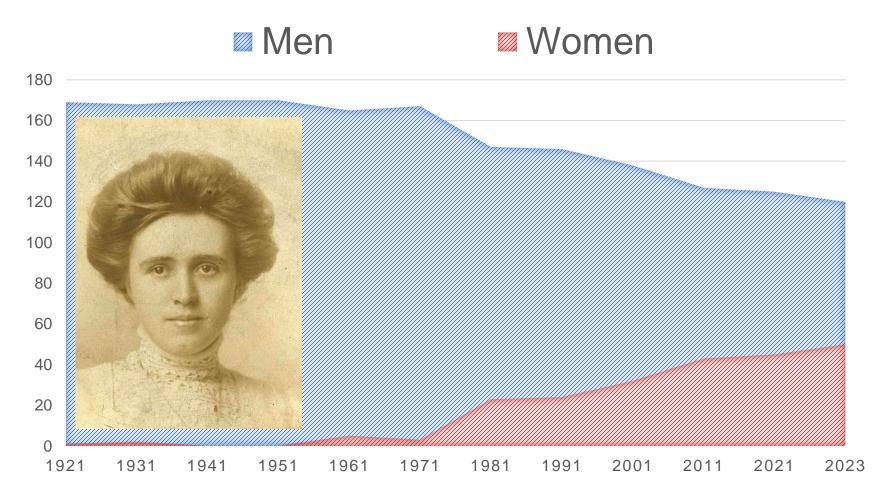
Party Affiliations







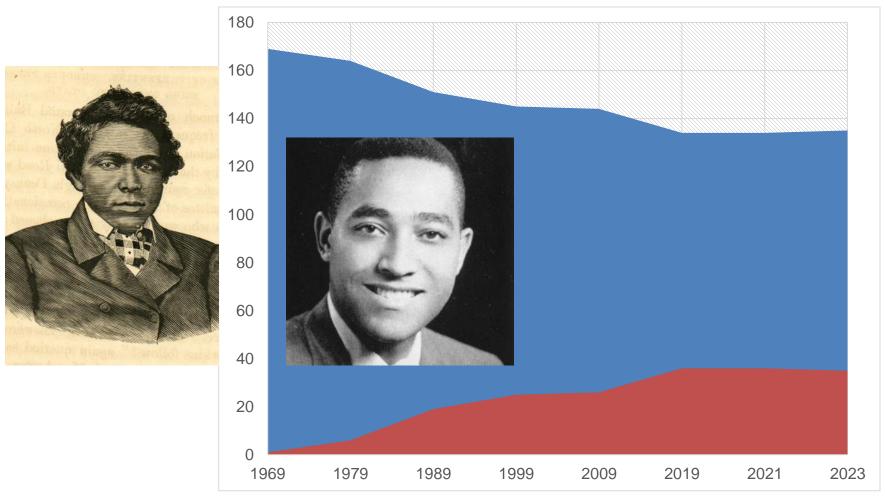
Women





Data source: Ncleg.gov; Image source: NC State Archives

African-Americans







Behind the Scenes at the GA

- Legislative Services Office
- Bill Drafting Division
- Fiscal Research Division
- Legislative Analysis Division
- Legislative Assistants
- Clerks
- Sergeant at Arms Staff
- Many others!



NCGA Leadership



Mark Robinson
Lt. Governor,
President of the
Senate



Phil Berger
President Pro
Tempore of the
Senate
District 26



Tim Moore Speaker of the House, District 111

Legislative Sessions



Four Types of Sessions

- Regular Session, 1st Year of Biennium (odd-numbered) "Long Session"
- Regular Session, 2nd Year of Biennium (even-numbered) "Short Session"
- 3. Veto Session
- 4. Extra Sessions ("Special Sessions")



Regular Session, Odd-Numbered Years

- Convenes in late January after one day organizational session
- No limit on subject matter
- Typically in session 6 7 months
- 1,500 to 2,000 bills introduced
- 200 300 laws enacted
- Two-year budget enacted



Introduction deadline set each year

2023 Request and Filing Deadlines

House



Drafts	Requested By 4:00 PM	Filed in House By 3:00 PM
Bills recommended by Study commissions	Wednesday, February 1	Thursday, February 16
Bills recommended by State Agencies	Wednesday, February 8	Thursday, February 23
Local Bills	Wednesday, March 1	Thursday, March 23
Public Bills & Resolutions (Not Approps or Finance)	Wednesday, March 22	Tuesday, April 18
Public Bills (Approps and Finance)	Wednesday, March 29	Tuesday, April 25

Crossover Deadline: Thursday, May 4

Bills eligible to be filed in 2023 with no deadlines

- (1) Redistricting bills for House, Senate, Congress, or local entities.
- (2) Ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the United States.
- (3) Resolutions pertaining to the internal affairs of the House or adjournment resolutions.
- (4) Bills introduced on the report of the House Committees on Appropriations, Finance, or Rules.

Senate

2023 Senate Request/Filing Deadlines

Drafts	Requested by 4:00 p.m.	Filed in Senate by 4:00 p.m.	
Local Bills	Thursday, February 23	Thursday, March 9	
Public Bills & Resolutions	Thursday, March 9	Tuesday, April 4	

* CROSSOVER DEADLINE * Thursday, May 4, 2023

Recent Long Sessions

	2013	2015	2017	2019	2021	2023
Date convened	Jan. 30	Jan. 28	Jan. 25	Jan. 30	Jan. 27	Jan. 25
Date adjourned	July 26	Sept. 30	June 30	Oct. 31	Dec. 10	Oct. 25
Senate legislative days	103	137	93	150	168	135
House legislative days	103	135	93	153	165	133
Senate bills introduced	726	722	685	692	739	761
House bills introduced	1,022	944	927	1,021	978	898
Total bills introduced	1,748	1,666	1,609	1,713	1,717	1,659
Session Laws Enacted	442	314	210	268	247	149
% measures passed	25%	19%	13%	16%	14%	9%

What happens now?



Returning for two-days in November, December, January, February, March & April



Limits on what can be considered during those sessions



Short Session begins April 24

2. Regular Session, Even-Numbered Year ("Short Session")

- Convenes in May
- Scope is limited in previous year's adjournment resolution; typically limited to budget adjustments, unfinished business, and non-controversial local bills
- Usually lasts six to ten weeks
- About 400 bills introduced
- About 100-150 laws enacted (including bills carried over from previous year)



3. Reconvened/veto Session

- Only purpose is to consider whether to override a veto
- Called by proclamation of the governor
- Does not need to be called if a majority of the legislators state that the session is not necessary
- Often takes place along with an "extra session"

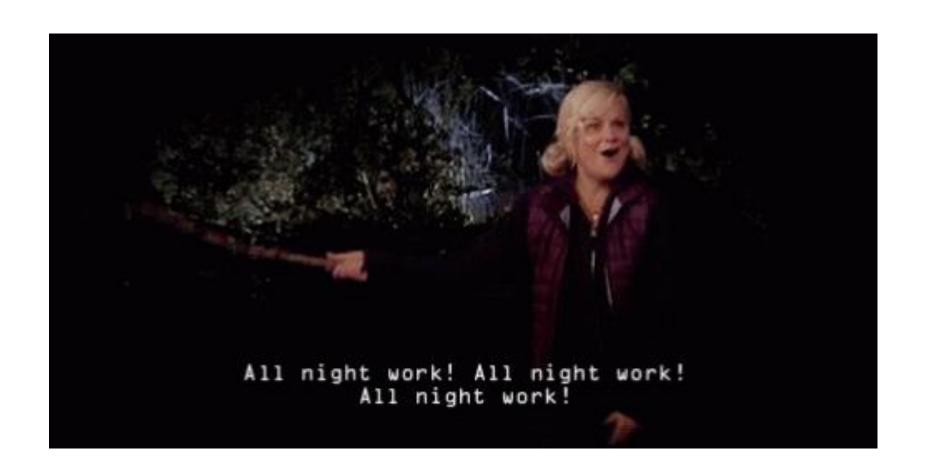
4. Extra Session

- Called by governor or majority of membership
- Normally does not stray beyond purpose for which called
- Can vary in length from one day to several weeks

Typical Weekly Schedule (in Session)

- Monday Non-voting session or a brief session at 7 pm
- Tue/Wed Committee meetings am/pm Session in afternoon
- Thu Committee meetings in am Session in late am
- Fri/Sat/Sun/Mon am at home/in district



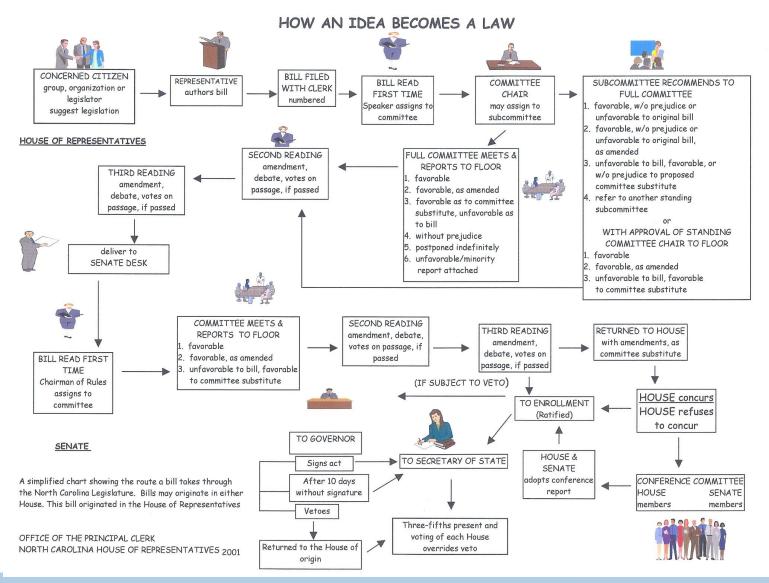


Daily Calendars

- Separate calendars for House and Senate
- Available at www.ncleg.gov
- Show scheduled chamber actions and committee meetings
- Unscheduled bills may be taken up
- Chamber, committee, and press conference audio; House video available online

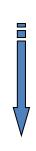


Legislative Process

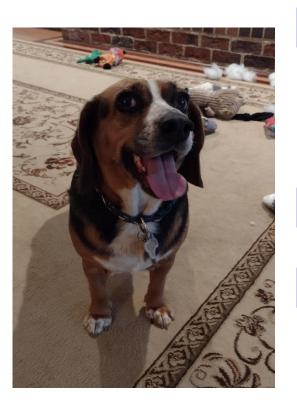








- Personal Ideas
- Constituents
- Lobbyists
- Agency Liaisons
- Current Events



A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ADOPT THE LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE AS THE OFFICIAL SALTWATER REPTILE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ADOPTING THE CAROLINA BALLOONFEST HELD IN THE CITY OF STATESVILLE AS THE OFFICIAL BALLOON RALLY OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ADOPTING THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN AS THE STATE MARINE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ADOPTING THE FAYETTEVILLE DOGWOOD FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL DOGWOOD FESTIVAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

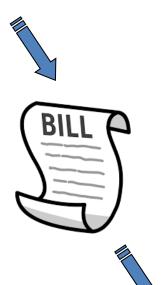
A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT ADOPTING THE MORAVIAN COOKIE AND THE MORAVIAN STAR AS THE OFFICIAL STATE COOKIE AND STAR.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT DESIGNATING SPARTA'S FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.





Filed In House or Senate (chamber of origin)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023

S

SENATE BILL 100

Short Title: Adopt Beagle as Official State Pet.

Sponsors: Senator Wunsche.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the Senate.

September 21, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE BEAGLE AS THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S OFFICIAL STATE PET.

Whereas, their sweet temperament, medium size, and unending loyalty, make beagles the perfect pet; and

6 Whereas, beagles are excellent working dogs. They are often found in airports protecting our national security by sniffing out illegal contraband, especially food; and

8 Whereas, beagles are extremely smart and will let you know what they want through their

9 expressive eyes and harmonic baying, especially when hungry (aka all of the time); and Whereas, beagles were bred to hunt rabbits; their white tipped tail, powerful nose, and

boisterous bay, make them an important asset for hunters, who harvest approximately 382,500 rabbits in the State annually; and

Whereas, Snoopy, everyone's favorite cartoon dog and friend to Charlie Brown and Woodstock, is a beagle; and

Whereas, beagles bring joy and health benefits to the lives of their owners and should be recognized by naming them as North Carolina's official pet.

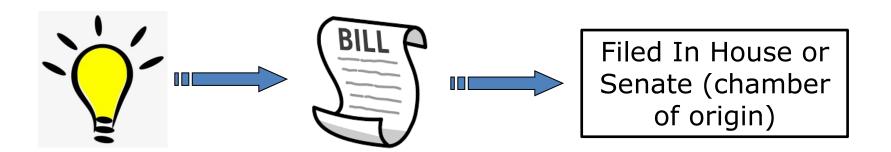
7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

0 "§ 145-52. State Pet.

The beagle is adopted as the official pet of North Carolina.

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.



First Reading and Introduction



Referral to Committee



Report from Committee

- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

Committees



Typical House Committees

- Agriculture
- Appropriations
- Commerce
- Education
- Election Law & Campaign Finance
- Environment
- Finance
- Health

- Insurance
- Judiciary (3)
- Military & Veterans Affairs
- Pensions & Retirment
- Rules
- State Personnel
- Transportation



Typical Senate Committees

- Agriculture/Energy/ Environment
- Appropriations
- Commerce and Insurance
- Education/Higher Ed.
- Finance

- Health Care
- Judiciary
- Pensions/Retirement/ Aging
- State Govt./Local Govt.
- Rules
- Transportation

Membership, meeting times, e-mail notices mailing list at www.ncleg.gov



Standing Committees

- Meet during session to consider bills
- Leaders control which bills go to which committees
- Committee chairs control which bills are considered



Committees are the only chance for public to speak (in the Chair's discretion)



 All bills are referred to a committee but few get a committee hearing

- This is how most bills die (never heard)
- ➤ Bills rarely fail a committee vote

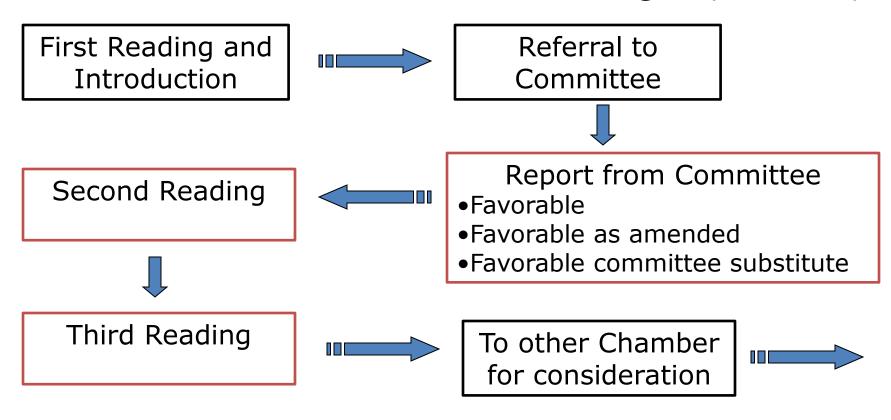
First opportunity to make changes to a bill



Committee Substitutes



Bill Action In the Chamber of Origin (Senate)





Bill Action In the Receiving Chamber (House)

First Reading and Introduction



Referral to Committee



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023

S

SENATE BILL 100 HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

Short Title: Adopt Domestic Shorthair Cat as State Pet.

(Public)

2

Sponsors: Referred to:

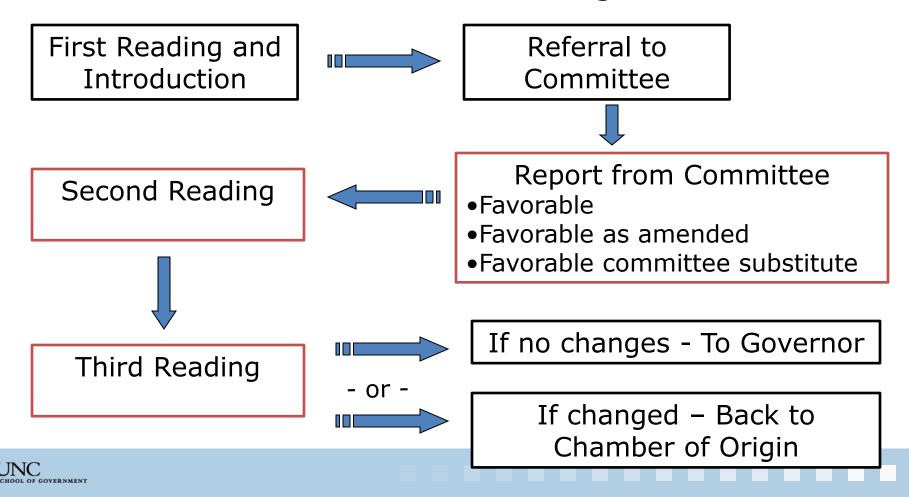
September 22, 2023

- A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
- AN ACT TO ADOPT THE DOMESTIC SHORTHAIR CAT AS THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S OFFICIAL PET.
- Whereas, the domestic shorthair cat is one of the most popular cat breeds in the United States;
- Whereas, the domestic shorthair cat makes an excellent companion and is always willing to snuggle or just ignore you; and
- Whereas, the domestic shorthair cat's small size and self-sufficiency make them an excellent
- Whereas, domestic shorthair cats are excellent mousers, keeping homes pets free; and
- Whereas, Tom, everyone's favorite cartoon cat and frenemy to Jerry, is a domestic shorthair;
- 13 Whereas, domestic shorthair cats bring joy and health benefits to the lives of their owners and should be recognized by naming them as North Carolina's official pet.
- The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
- SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following
- new section to read:
- "§ 145-52. State Pet.
- The domestic shorthair cat is adopted as the official pet of North Carolina.
 - SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

Report from Committee

- Favorable
- Favorable as amended
- Favorable committee substitute

Bill Action In the Receiving Chamber



How a Bill Becomes Law

Bill Action Back In Chamber of Origin

Concurs in Changes



To Governor



. . .or . . .

Fails to Concur in Changes



Goes to Conference



How a Bill Becomes Law

Bill Action Back In Chamber of Origin

Goes to Conference



Conference Report adopted by both Chambers



To Governor

	GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023 S			
	SENATE BILL 100 House Committee Substitute Adopted 9/22/2023 Proposed Conference Committee Substitute			
	Short Title: Adopt Rescued Animal as Official State Pet. (Publi			
	Sponsors:			
	Referred to:			
	September 22, 2023			
2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO ADOPT THE RESCUED ANIMAL AS THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S OFFICIAL PET. Whereas, there were more than 56,505 stay animals in the State last year and shelters throughout North Carolina are overrun with animals in need of a loving home; and Whereas, it is difficult to find enough families to foster dogs, cats, and other animals, increasing the chance of animals being trapped in shelters or euthanized; and Whereas, adopting a pet is cheaper than buying from a breeder, and the pet will likely already have been given expensive medical treatments, making adoption an accessible and affordable option; and Whereas, rescued animals are loving and fiercely loyal to the families that adopt them; and Whereas, adopting an animal is a rewarding experience and fills a home with love while freeing up space for another animal in need; and Whereas, rescued pets bring joy and health benefits to the lives of their owners and should be recognized by naming them as North Carolina's official pet. The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: SECTION 1. Chapter 145 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read: "§ 145-52. State Pet. The rescued animal is adopted as the official pet of North Carolina. SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.			



How a Bill Becomes Law

Bill Action By the Governor



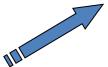
Signs into Law



Bill is now a Law!

. . .or . . .

Does not sign – Becomes law in 10 days



. . .or . . .

Vetoes



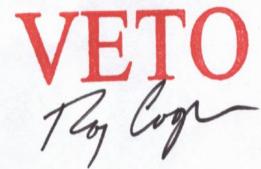
Back to Chamber of Origin to Override Veto





First in Flight but Last in Vetoes

- Not all bills are subject to veto:
 - Local bills applying in fewer than 15 counties
 - Joint Resolutions
 - State or federal constitutional amendments
 - NCGA appointments
 - Legislative or congressional districts
- Override with 3/5 present and voting in both chambers





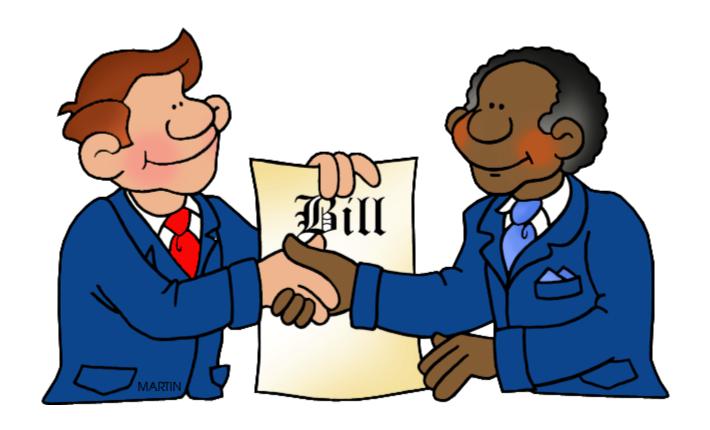
	Year	Governor	Vetoes	Override?
	1997-1998	Hunt	0	N/A
$\rightarrow (-X) \rightarrow (-X)$	1999-2000	Hunt	0	N/A
	2001-2002	Easley	1	0
	2003-2004	Easley	3	0
	2005-2006	Easley	3	0
NC VETOES	2007-2008	Easley	2	1
	2009-2010	Perdue	1	0
	2011-2012	Perdue	19	11
	2013-2014	McCrory	3	2
	2015-2016	McCrory	3	2
	2017-2018	Cooper	28	23
	2019-2020	Cooper	25	0
Veto Statistics, NC Legislative Library	2021-2022	Cooper	22	0
	2023*	Cooper	19	19

Study and Oversight Committees

- Created by statute, session law, or leadership discretion
- Meet during interim
- Membership, meeting times, e-mail notices mailing list at www.ncleg.net
- Study issues in depth with input from the public, staff, experts, government officials, and interest groups
- Reports and recommendations at: http://www.ncleg.net (see Legislative Publications link)



All About Bills & What Makes Local Bills Special?



3 Types of Bills

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2017 RATIFIED BILL

- **RESOLUTION 2017-5 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 921**
 - A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2017 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP.
 - Whereas, on April 3, 2017, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill men's basketball team won the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Championship by defeating Gonzaga University by a score of 71-65; and
 - Whereas, on the road to the final championship game, the Tar Heels defeated some formidable opponents, including the Oregon Ducks (77-76), Kentucky Wildcats (75-73), Butler Bulldogs (92-80), Arkansas Razorbacks (72-65), and Texas Southern Tigers (103-64); and
 - Whereas, the Tar Heels looked at this year's season as redemption for losing the 2016 National Championship during the final seconds of the game against Villanova University; and
 - Whereas, the 2017 National Championship marks the sixth Division I NCAA Championship, adding to National Championships in 1957, 1982, 1993, 2005, and 2009; and Whereas in NCAA tournament play LINC has made 48 appearances been selected

- Public
- Local
- Resolutions



What Makes Local Bills Special?

Beach Towns/Land-Based Shark Fishing.

Representative Miller.

Short Title:

Sponsors:

16

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023

H HOUSE BILL 368

(Local)

	For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.
	Referred to: Local Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
	March 15, 2023
1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT AUTHORIZING CERTAIN BEACH TOWNS TO REGULATE AND CONTROL
3	LAND-BASED SHARK FISHING.
4	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5	SECTION 1. G.S. 160A-176.2 reads as rewritten:
6	"§ 160A-176.2. Ordinances effective in Atlantic Ocean.
7	
8	(a1) A city may adopt ordinances to regulate and control land-based shark fishing in the
9	Atlantic Ocean and other navigable waterways adjacent to that portion of the city within its
0	boundaries or within its extraterritorial jurisdiction; provided, however, nothing contained herein
1	shall be construed to permit any city to prohibit shark fishing altogether or to make shark fishing
2	activities unlawful.
3	"
4	SECTION 2. This act applies only to the Towns of Carolina Beach, Caswell Beach,
5	Holden Beach, Kure Beach, and Oak Island and to the Village of Bald Head Island.

SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.



Local Legislation

- What is a local bill?
 - Fewer than 15 counties, for purposes of legislative procedure and veto exemption
 - Geographical application less than statewide, for purposes of constitutional restrictions
 - Usually grants special authority or exception
- Many local bills relating to tax, borrowing, and annexation must be read on separate days in each chamber

- Formal request from governing board
- Consultation with all delegation members; unanimous agreement required in short session
- Legislative courtesy
 - Introducers take full responsibility
 - Handled by local government and finance committees
 - Enacted with little explanation or debate

Constitutional prohibitions on local bills include:

- health, sanitation, abatement of nuisances
- opening or closing specific streets
- refunding taxes or remitting fines or penalties
- regulating labor, trade, manufacturing
- extending time for tax collection
- ad valorem tax exemptions and reductions
- authorizing non-voted property tax districts
- defining purposes for which property taxes may be levied
- local debt issuance
- changing names of local government units
- voter registration
- exceptions to rule against multiple office-holding
- cemeteries
- granting divorces or legitimizing bastards



Is there a way to avoid some of these limitations?

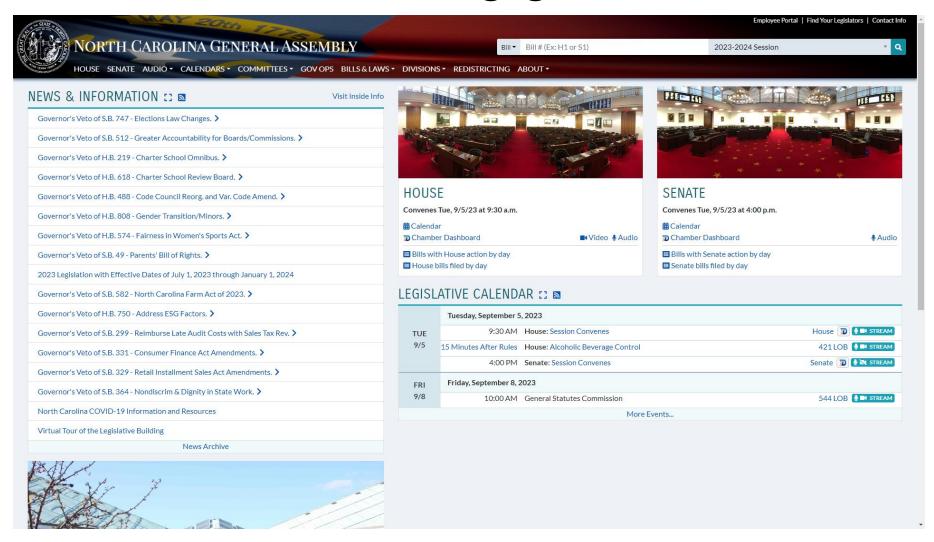
Classified General Laws

- Often used to avoid constitutional restriction on local bills
- Example:
- "This section applies to counties with a population in excess of 425,000."
- --G.S. 153A-77 (authority of county commissioners over boards, agencies, etc.)

How to Find What You Need



www.ncleg.gov



www.ncleg.gov

- Legislators
- Bills
- Calendars
- Status Reports
- Statutes
- Session Laws
- Audio/Video

Summaries of Bills

- Legislative Reporting Service Office, home of The Daily Bulletin
- Irs.sog.unc.edu
- Digests of introduced bills and subsequent changes by amendment, committee substitute, or conference report
- Available online and via listserv



Legislative Reporting Service

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- > Announcements

LRS Search

LRS Bill Categories

Here is a complete list of keywords used to categorize GA bills by the Legislative Reporting System staff. These keywords are assigned to bills during the digesting process to facilitate searching. Click on any term to view any current content specifically tagged with that term by the LRS staff.

- 1. Agriculture
- 2. Alcoholic Beverage Control
- 3. Animals
- 4. Banking and Finance
- 5. Business and Commerce
 - a. Consumer Protection
 - b. Corporation and Partnerships
 - c. Insurance
 - d. Occupational Licensing
- 6. Constitution
- 7. Courts/Judiciary
- a. Civil
- i. Civil Law
- ii. Civil Procedure
- iii. Family Law
- b. Evidence
- c. Juvenile Law
 - i. Abuse, Neglect and Dependency
- ii. Delinauency
- d. Motor Vehicle



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- b. Energy
- c. Environment/Natural Resources
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- b. Budget/Appropriations
- c. Cultural Resources and Museums
- d. Elections
- e. Ethics and Lobbying
- f. General Assembly
- g. Public Records and Open Meetings
- h. Public Safety and Ex
- i. State Agencies
- i. Community Colleges System Office
- ii. Department of Public Instruction
- iii. UNC System
- iv. Department of Administration
- v. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- vi. Department of Commerce
- vii. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (formerly Dept. of Cultural Resources)
- viii. Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR)
- ix. Department of Health and Human Services
- x. Department of Insurance
- xi. Department of Justice
- xii. Department of Labor
- xiii. Department of Public Safety
- xiv. Department of Revenue
- xv. Department of State Treasurer
- xvi. Department of Transportation
- xvii. Office of Information Technology Services
- xviii. Office of State Auditor
- xix. Office of State Budget and Management
- xx. Office of State Controller
- xxi. Office of State Human Resources (formerly Office of State Personnel)
- xxii. State Board of Education
- xxiii. State Board of Elections
- xxiv. Department of Military & Veterans Affairs



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LRS Account Log In

The Daily Bulletin

The Legislative Reporting Service website provides immediate access to the daily business of the North

Carolina General Assembly. This robust online tool replaces the School's

Please visit this site daily while the North Carolina General Assembly is:

. Access summaries of every filed bill, amendment, committee subst Access daily summaries in a report that replicates the Daily Bulleti Access summaries for bills on each day's House and Senate caler

 Search for bill summaries according to subject matter categories . Gain additional insight into legislation through commentary by Scho

information about legislation that will impact your organization.

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LRS Search

Select a biennium/session:

2023-2024 Session V

(e.g. H 14, S 12, H 103, S 967)

Search

The Daily Bulletin: List of Bill Digests

The Daily Bulletin: List of Bill Digests

1301 bulletins available

The Daily Bulletin is published at the end of each day the General Assembly is in session, and contain summary of every bill introduced and every amendment and committee substitute adopted. To access a Daily Bulletin, click on a date below.

NOTE: If you would like to receive an email notification once the Daily Bulletin is available each day, please click here. You will be asked to provide your full name and the email

address at which you would like to receive the Daily Bulletin notification.

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