

June 13, 2002

**S 1420. SHAKEDOWN PREVENTION.** *TO STRENGTHEN THE PENALTIES AGAINST IMPROPER AND COERCIVE POLITICAL FUNDRAISING PRACTICES AGAINST STATE EMPLOYEES AND TO APPLY THE LAW TO ALL STATE EMPLOYEES.* Amends GS 126-13 (concerning appropriate political activities of state employees) to make it applicable to all employees, not just those subject to the Personnel Act and temporary employees, and including public school employees, community college employees, and employees of the University of North Carolina. Amends GS 126-14 and GS 126-14.1 to make it unlawful for anyone to coerce any state employee or applicant for state employment into supporting or contributing to a particular political candidate, committee, or party or into changing his or her political affiliation by threatening to change that person's employment status or by arranging for preferential personnel treatment. Makes a willful violation a Class H felony. Amends GS 126-14(b1) to make any candidate, political committee, or political party that accepts such a contribution, knowing it was coerced, subject to a civil penalty of up to three times the amount of the contributions. Requires all such contributions to be returned to the contributor, regardless of whether the contributee knew it was coerced. Provides that the State Board of Elections shall enforce these provisions. Makes conforming changes to GS 126-5(c), 126-5(c1), 126-5(c2), 126-5(c3). Effective Jan. 1, 2003.

**Intro. by Gulley.**

Ref. to Judiciary I
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GS 126
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July 25, 2002

**S 1420. SHAKEDOWN PREVENTION.** Intro. 6/13/02. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Adds statement of purpose comparable to that found in statutes prohibiting shakedowns of city and county employees (GS 160A-169 and 153A-99). Makes explicit that prohibitions on using state funds in campaigns and on coercing state employees apply to actions by elected state officials. Changes effective date from Jan. 1, 2003, to Dec. 1, 2002.