

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 341
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40139-MM-38B

Short Title: North Carolina Sunshine Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Russell, Ager, Morey, and Quick (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND PREDICTABILITY REGARDING THE
3 PROCEDURES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
6 Article to read:

7 "Article 37.

8 "General Assembly Transparency Act.

9 **"§ 120-315. Legislative Findings.**

10 The General Assembly finds that a well-educated electorate is a prerequisite to democracy
11 and the people's business is best done with due notice and adequate transparency.

12 **"§ 120-316. Definitions.**

13 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 14 (1) Committee. – Any standing committee, permanent subcommittee, or select
15 committee of either house created or authorized by the law or the rules of
16 either house or a joint resolution adopted by both houses and to which bills
17 are referred for consideration and report back to the house.
18 (2) Official meeting. – Defined in G.S. 143-318.10(d).
19 (3) Published. – Distributed electronically to all members of the committee and
20 posted on the committee page of the General Assembly's Web site.

21 **"§ 120-317. Broadcasting of legislative sessions and committee meetings.**

22 (a) All sessions of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall be broadcast live by
23 streaming video (contemporaneous audio and video content) over the Internet and shall be
24 archived in a manner that makes the video broadcast available for replay by the public.

25 (b) Unless specifically exempted from Article 33C of Chapter 143 in G.S. 143-318.18,
26 all official meetings of committees shall broadcast live by streaming video (contemporaneous
27 audio and video content) over the Internet and shall be archived in a manner that makes the video
28 broadcast available for replay by the public.

29 **"§ 120-318. Publication of calendars and meeting agendas.**

30 (a) No bill may receive either second or third reading in either chamber unless the bill
31 appeared on the calendar published by that chamber's principal clerk's office at least 24 hours in
32 advance of the reading. This requirement may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the members of
33 the house present and voting.

34 (b) No bill may be taken up for consideration in any committee unless the bill appeared
35 on the committee's agenda published by the clerk of the committee at least 24 hours in advance



1 of the committee's scheduled meeting. This requirement may be waived by a two-thirds vote of
2 the members of the committee present and voting.

3 **"§ 120-319. Limitation on meeting times.**

4 (a) Neither the Senate or the House of Representatives, nor both meeting in joint session,
5 may hold session before 7:00 A.M. or after 9:00 P.M. This requirement may be waived by a
6 two-thirds vote of the members of the house present and voting and does not apply to first reading
7 of bills.

8 (b) No committee may hold an official meeting before 7:00 A.M. or after 7:00 P.M. This
9 requirement may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the members of the committee present and
10 voting.

11 **"§ 120-320. Germaneness.**

12 (a) The long title of each bill shall adequately and fairly reflect its subject matter. Except
13 by motion approved by two-thirds vote of the members of the Senate or the House of
14 Representatives present and voting, no public bill other than the Current Operations
15 Appropriations Act may contain more than one subject.

16 (b) Neither the Senate or the House of Representatives, nor both houses meeting in joint
17 session, may consider an amendment, a committee substitute, a conference report, or a
18 conference committee substitute that is not germane to the long title of the First Edition of the
19 bill. This requirement may be waived by a two-thirds vote of the members of the house present
20 and voting.

21 (c) No committee may consider an amendment or a committee substitute that is not
22 germane to the long title of the First Edition of the bill. This requirement may be waived by a
23 two-thirds vote of the members of the committee present and voting.

24 **"§ 120-321. Budget provisions; disclosure.**

25 Every special provision contained in the Current Operations Appropriations Act shall indicate
26 the name of the member or members who requested the provision.

27 **"§ 120-322. Applicability.**

28 This Article applies to regular sessions and extra sessions on legislative call as provided in
29 Section 11 of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution as well as extra sessions and
30 reconvened sessions convened by the Governor as provided in Section 5 of Article III of the
31 North Carolina Constitution."

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