GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2021

H D

HOUSE BILL 64 PROPOSED SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H64-PCS40635-ST-17

Short Title: G	overnment Transparency Act of 2021. (Public)
Sponsors:	
Referred to:	
	February 10, 2021
	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
ACCESSIBI DISMISSAL	STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT BY INCREASING LITY TO CERTAIN PUBLIC PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND RECORDS. embly of North Carolina enacts:
	FION 1.(a) G.S. 126-23 reads as rewritten:
	ain records to be kept by State agencies open to inspection.
	department, agency, institution, commission and bureau of the State shall
	d of each of its employees, showing the following information with respect to
each such emplo	
(1)	Name.
(2)	Age.
(3)	Date of original employment or appointment to State service.
(4)	The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written or oral, past and current, to the extent that the agency has the written contract or a record of the oral contract in its possession.
(5)	Current position.
(6)	Title.
(7)	Current salary.
(8)	Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with that department, agency, institution, commission, or bureau.
(9)	Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or other change in position classification with that department, agency, institution, commission, or bureau.
(10)	Date Subject to subsection (g) of this section, date and general description of the reasons for each promotion of the following with that department, agency, institution, commission, or bureau: a. Promotion. b. Demotion. c. Transfer. d. Suspension. e. Separation. f. Dismissal.
(11)	Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demotion dismissal for disciplinary reasons taken by the department, agency, institution, commission, or bureau. If the disciplinary action was a dismissal, bureau, a copy of the



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(3)

1			written notice of the final decision of the head of the department setting forth
2			the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal.
3		(12)	The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned.
5	(f)	Noth	ing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any
6			ormation protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
7	<u>1996 (HI</u>	PAA),	110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat.
8	327, or ot		plicable law.
9	<u>(g)</u>		following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision
10	(a)(10) of		
11		<u>(1)</u>	No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from
12			disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action
13			prohibited by applicable law."
14		<u>(2)</u>	The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension,
15			separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under
16			subsection (a) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period
17			to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final
18		GE G	decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."
19	W (1)		TION 1.(b) G.S. 126-22(b) reads as rewritten:
20	"(b)	-	ourposes of this Article the following definitions apply:
21		(1)	"Employee" means any current State employee, former State employee, or
22		(2)	applicant for State employment.employment subject to this Article.
23		(2)	"Employer" means any State department, university, division, bureau,
24 25			commission, council, or other agency subject to Article 7 of this Chapter this
21 22 23 24 25 26			Article. The term "university" shall include all of the following, as defined in
			G.S. 116-2:
27 28			a. The Board of Trustees
20 29			b. The Board of Trustees. Chanceller
29 30			<u>Chancellor.</u><u>Constituent institutions.</u>
31			e. The President.
32		(3)	"Personnel file" means any employment-related or personal information
33		(3)	gathered by an employer or by the Office of State Human Resources.
34			Employment-related information contained in a personnel file includes
35			information related to an individual's application, selection, promotion,
36			demotion, transfer, leave, salary, contract for employment, benefits,
37			suspension, performance evaluation, disciplinary actions, and termination.
38			Personal information contained in a personnel file includes an individual's
39			home address, social security number, medical history, personal financial
40			data, marital status, dependents, and beneficiaries.
41		(4)	"Record" means the personnel information that each employer is required to
42		` /	maintain in accordance with G.S. 126-23."
43		SEC'	TION 2. G.S. 115C-320 reads as rewritten:
14	"§ 115C-	320. C	Certain records open to inspection.
1 5	(a)		local board of education shall maintain a record of each of its employees,
46	showing the following information with respect to each employee:		
1 7	3	(1)	Name.
48		(2)	Age.

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Date of original employment or appointment.

- Each board of trustees shall maintain a record of each of its employees, showing the following information with respect to each employee:
 - Name. (1)
 - (2) Age.

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- (3) Date of original employment or appointment.
- The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written (4) or oral, past and current, to the extent that the board has the written contract or a record of the oral contract in its possession.
- (5) Current position.

- beginning Beginning and ending dates, dates. **(4)**
- **(5)** position title. Current position and title.

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- (6) position descriptions, Position description.
- Current salary and total compensation of current and former positions; (7) positions. For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "total compensation" includes pay, benefits, incentives, bonuses, and deferred and all other forms of compensation paid by the employing entity.
- the The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether (8) written or oral, past and current, to the extent that the authority has the written contract or a record of the oral contract in its possession, possession.

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(4)

(5)

Current position title.

and date Date and type of the most recent each promotion, demotion, transfer, 1 (9) 2 suspension, separation, or other change in position classification. 3 Subject to subsection (e) of this section, date and general description of the (10)4 reasons for each of the following with that public health authority: 5 Promotion. a. Demotion. 6 <u>b.</u> 7 Transfer. <u>c.</u> 8 d. Suspension. 9 Separation. <u>e.</u> f. 10 Dismissal. 11 For each dismissal for disciplinary reasons taken by the public health (11)authority, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of the public health 12 authority setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the 13 14 dismissal. The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned. 15 (12)In addition, the following information with respect to each licensed medical 16 (13)provider employed by or having privileges to practice in a public health 17 facility shall be a matter of public record: educational history and 18 19 qualifications, date and jurisdiction or original and current licensure; and 20 information relating to medical board certifications or other qualifications of 21 medical specialists. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "total compensation" includes pay, benefits, incentives, bonuses, and deferred and 22 23 all other forms of compensation paid by the employing entity. 24 25 Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any (d) 26 confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 27 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 28 327, or other applicable law. 29 The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision 30 (b)(10) of this section: No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from 31 (1) 32 disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action 33 prohibited by applicable law." 34 The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, **(2)** 35 separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under 36 subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final 37 decision being entered in that administrative appeals process." 38 39 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 131E-257.2 reads as rewritten: "§ 131E-257.2. Privacy of employee personnel records. 40 41 42 (b) The following information with respect to each public hospital employee is a matter 43 of public record: 44 Name. (1) 45 (2) Age. 46 (3) Date of original employment.

(6) The office to which the employee is currently assigned.

suspension, separation or other change in position classification.

Date of the most recent and type for each promotion, demotion, transfer,

- Subject to subsection (j) of this section, date and general description of the 1 (7) 2 reasons for each of the following with that public hospital: 3
 - Promotion.
 - Demotion. <u>b.</u>
 - Transfer. <u>c.</u>
 - d. Suspension.
 - Separation. <u>e.</u>
 - f. Dismissal.
 - For each dismissal for disciplinary reasons taken by the public hospital, a copy (8) of the written notice of the final decision of the public hospital setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal.
 - In addition, the following information with respect to For each licensed <u>(9)</u> medical provider employed by or having privileges to practice in a public hospital shall be a matter of public record: hospital, the following information: educational history and qualifications, date and jurisdiction or original and current licensure; and information relating to medical board certifications or other qualifications of medical specialists.

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- Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any (i) confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 327, or other applicable law.
- The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision (b)(7)(i) of this section:
 - No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from (1) disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action prohibited by applicable law."
 - <u>(2)</u> The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."

SECTION 7.(a) G.S. 153A-98 reads as rewritten:

"§ 153A-98. Privacy of employee personnel records.

- Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 132-6 or any other general law or local act concerning access to public records, personnel files of employees, former employees, or applicants for employment maintained by a county are subject to inspection and may be disclosed only as provided by this section. For purposes of this section, an employee's personnel file consists of any information in any form gathered by the county with respect to that employee and, by way of illustration but not limitation, relating to his application, selection or nonselection, performance, promotions, demotions, transfers, suspension and other disciplinary actions, evaluation forms, leave, salary, and termination of employment. As used in this section, "employee" includes former employees of the county.
 - This section shall apply to all employees subject to G.S. 153A-103. (a1)
- (b) The following information with respect to each county employee is a matter of public record:
 - (1) Name.
 - (2) Age.
 - Date of original employment or appointment to the county service. (3)

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1 2 3		(4)	The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed or oral, past and current, to the extent that the county has the or a record of the oral contract in its possession.	
4		(5)	Current position.	
5		(6)	Title.	
6		(7)	Current salary.	
7		(8)	Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with	that county.
8 9		(9)	Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, susper or other change in position classification with that county.	ension, separation
10		(10)	Date Subject to subsection (h) of this section, date and gene	eral description of
11			the reasons for each promotion of the following with that ex	
12			a. Promotion.	•
13			<u>b.</u> <u>Demotion.</u>	
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15			d. Suspension.	
16			 <u>C.</u> Transfer. <u>d.</u> Suspension. <u>e.</u> Separation. f. Dismissal. 	
17			<u>f.</u> <u>Dismissal.</u>	
18		(11)	Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demo	
19			disciplinary reasons taken by the county. If the disciplin	
20			dismissal, county, a copy of the written notice of the final	
21			county setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are	e the basis of the
22			dismissal.	
23		(12)	The office to which the employee is currently assigned.	
24	•••			
25	<u>(g)</u>		ng in this section shall be construed to authorize the d	
26 27	1996 (HI	PAA),	rmation protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Acc 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990	=
28			licable law.	
29	(h)		following shall apply to the general descriptions as require	d by subdivision
30	(b)(10) of			1.11.4.1.6
31		<u>(1)</u>	No general description shall disclose information otherwise	
32			disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "des	cription of action
33		(2)	prohibited by applicable law."	c ·
34 35		<u>(2)</u>	The general description for each promotion, demotion, transcription, or dismissal shall become port of the record	
36			separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record	
37			subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals	-
38			decision being entered in that administrative appeals proces	•
39		SEC	FION 7.(b) G.S. 153A-99(b) reads as rewritten:	<u>8.</u>
40	"(b)		itions. For the purposes of this section:	
41	(0)	(1)	"County employee" or "employee" means any person empl	loved by a county
42		(1)	or any department or program thereof that is supported, in w	
43			county funds; funds but shall not include employees subject t	
44		(2)	"On duty" means that time period when an employee is eng	
45		(2)	of his or her employment; and	used in the duties
46		(3)	"Workplace" means any place where an employee engages	s in his or her ioh
47		(0)	duties."	1115 51 11 01 100
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SECTION 8. G.S. 160A-168 reads as rewritten:

"§ 160A-168. Privacy of employee personnel records.

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1 (b) The following information with respect to each city employee is a matter of public 2 record: 3 (1) Name. 4 (2) Age. 5 (3) Date of original employment or appointment to the service. The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written 6 (4) 7 or oral, past and current, to the extent that the city has the written contract or 8 a record of the oral contract in its possession. 9 Current position. (5) 10 Title. (6) Current salary. 11 (7) 12 (8) Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with that municipality. 13 Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, (9) 14 or other change in position classification with that municipality. Date Subject to subsection (h) of this section, date and general description of 15 (10)each promotion of the following with 16 reasons for 17 municipality.municipality: 18 Promotion. <u>a.</u> 19 Demotion. <u>b.</u> 20 Transfer. c. 21 d. Suspension. 22 Separation. <u>e.</u> 23 Dismissal. 24 (11)Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demotion dismissal for 25 disciplinary reasons taken by the municipality. If the disciplinary action was 26 a dismissal, municipality, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of 27 the municipality setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis 28 of the dismissal. 29 The office to which the employee is currently assigned. (12)30 Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any 31 (g) 32 confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 33 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 34 327, or other applicable law. 35 The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision 36 (b)(10) of this section: 37 (1) No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action 38 39 prohibited by applicable law." 40 The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, (2) separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under 41 42 subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period 43 to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process." 44 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 162A-6.1 reads as rewritten: 45 46 "§ 162A-6.1. Privacy of employee personnel records. 47 48 (b) The following information with respect to each authority employee is a matter of 49 public record:

(1) Name.(2) Age.

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(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 327, or other applicable law.

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(j) The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision (b)(10) of this section:

- (1) No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action prohibited by applicable law."
- The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."

SECTION 10.(a) No later than November 30, 2021, each employer affected by this act shall adopt personnel policies to effectuate this act to permit all of its employees to challenge the wording of the general description of any promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal occurring on or after December 1, 2021.

SECTION 10.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law.

SECTION 11. Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective December 1, 2021, and applies to promotions, demotions, transfers, suspensions, separations, and dismissals occurring on or after that date.

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