

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

**H.B. 522**  
**Mar 29, 2023**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH30225-LR-114

Short Title: Repeal Prelitigation Public Records Mediation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Everitt.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT REPEALING THE PRELITIGATION MEDIATION REQUIREMENT IN PUBLIC  
3 RECORD DISPUTES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-38.3E is repealed.

6 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 132-9(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) Any person who is denied access to public records for purposes of inspection and  
8 examination, or who is denied copies of public records, may apply to the appropriate division of  
9 the General Court of Justice for an order compelling disclosure or copying, and the court shall  
10 have jurisdiction to issue such ~~orders if the person has complied with G.S. 7A-38.3E.~~ orders.  
11 Actions brought pursuant to this section shall be set down for immediate hearing, and subsequent  
12 proceedings in such actions shall be accorded priority by the trial and appellate courts."

13 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 7A-38.2(a) reads as rewritten:

14 "(a) The Supreme Court may adopt standards of conduct for mediators and other neutrals  
15 who are certified or otherwise qualified pursuant to G.S. 7A-38.1, 7A-38.3, 7A-38.3B,  
16 7A-38.3D, ~~7A-38.3E,~~ and 7A-38.4A, or who participate in proceedings conducted pursuant to  
17 those sections. The standards may also regulate mediator and other neutral training programs.  
18 The Supreme Court may adopt procedures for the enforcement of those standards."

19 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

