

# TABLED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 1 of 11

Amends Title [YES]  
Second Edition

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

Senator Chaudhuri

1 moves to amend the bill on page 1, line 8, by inserting the following at the end of that line before  
2 the period:

3 "AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER  
4 TO RESTRICT TEMPORARILY A PERSON'S ACCESS TO FIREARMS IF THERE IS  
5 EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON POSES A DANGER OF PHYSICAL HARM TO SELF  
6 OR OTHERS";

7  
8 and on page 3, lines 29-30, by inserting the following between those lines:

9 "**PART III-B. EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDERS**

10 **SECTION 3B.(a)** The General Statutes are amended by adding a new Chapter to  
11 read:

12 **"Chapter 50E.**

13 **"Extreme Risk Protection Orders.**

14 **"§ 50E-1. Title of Chapter.**

15 This Chapter may be cited as the "Extreme Risk Protection Orders Act."

16 **"§ 50E-2. Legislative findings and purpose.**

17 (a) Legislative Findings. – The General Assembly finds all of the following:

18 (1) Every year, over 100,000 people are victims of gunshot wounds and more than  
19 30,000 of those victims lose their lives.

20 (2) Individuals who pose a danger to themselves or others often exhibit signs that  
21 alert family, household members, or law enforcement to the threat. Many mass  
22 shooters displayed warning signs prior to the killings, but federal and State  
23 laws provided no clear legal process to suspend the shooters' access to guns,  
24 even temporarily.

25 (b) Purpose. – The purpose of this Chapter is to reduce gun deaths and injuries, while  
26 respecting constitutional rights, by providing a court procedure for concerned citizens and law  
27 enforcement to obtain an order temporarily restricting a person's access to firearms. The court  
28 orders authorized under this Chapter are intended to be limited to situations in which the person  
29 poses a significant danger of harming themselves or others by possessing a firearm and include  
30 standards and safeguards to protect the rights of respondents and due process of law.

31 **"§ 50E-3. Definitions.**

32 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:



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NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 2 of 11

- 1           (1)   Extreme Risk Protection Order or ERPO. – An order granted under this  
2                   Chapter, which includes a remedy authorized under G.S. 50E-6.  
3           (2)   Family or household member. – Any of the following:  
4                   a.     A person related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the respondent.  
5                   b.     A dating partner of the respondent.  
6                   c.     A person who has a child in common with the respondent, regardless  
7                           of whether the person has been married to the respondent or has lived  
8                           together with the respondent at any time.  
9                   d.     A domestic partner of the respondent.  
10                  e.     A person who has a biological or legal parent-child relationship with  
11                           the respondent, including stepparents, stepchildren, grandparents, and  
12                           grandchildren.  
13                  f.     A person who is acting or has acted as the respondent's legal guardian.  
14           (3)   Firearm. – Any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to  
15                   or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive,  
16                   or its frame or receiver.  
17           (4)   Petitioner. – The person who petitions for an ERPO under this Chapter.  
18           (5)   Respondent. – The person who is identified as the respondent in a petition  
19                   filed under this Chapter.

20 **"§ 50E-4. Commencement of action.**

- 21           (a)   Petition. – Either of the following may file a verified petition in district court for an  
22                   Extreme Risk Protection Order:  
23                   (1)   A family or household member.  
24                   (2)   A law enforcement officer or agency.  
25           (b)   Filing Location. – A petition for an ERPO under this Chapter may be filed in any  
26                   county permitted under G.S. 1-82.  
27           (c)   Required Information in Petition. – A petition for an ERPO under this Chapter shall  
28                   include all of the following:  
29                   (1)   An allegation that the respondent poses a danger of physical harm to self or  
30                           others by having in his or her care, custody, possession, ownership, or control  
31                           a firearm. If the petitioner is seeking an ex parte ERPO, the petition shall  
32                           include an allegation that the respondent poses an imminent danger of physical  
33                           harm to self or others by having in his or her care, custody, possession,  
34                           ownership, or control a firearm. The allegation required under this subdivision  
35                           shall include facts to support the allegation.  
36                   (2)   An identification, to the best of the petitioner's knowledge, of the number,  
37                           types, and locations of firearms under the respondent's custody or control.  
38                   (3)   An identification of any existing protection order under State law governing  
39                           the respondent.  
40                   (4)   An identification of any pending lawsuits, complaints, petitions, or other  
41                           actions between the petitioner and the respondent.  
42           (d)   Corroborating Evidence. – A petition for an ERPO under this Chapter shall be  
43                   accompanied by either (i) a written statement made by a witness other than the petitioner that

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 3 of 11

1 states specific facts supporting the allegation set forth in the petition or (ii) an audio and visual  
2 recording of the incident the petitioner is using as the basis for seeking an ERPO under this  
3 Chapter. A written statement provided under this subsection shall include the name of the witness  
4 and a description of the witness's relationship to the petitioner.

5 (e) Verification of Terms of Existing Orders. – The clerk of court shall verify the terms  
6 of any existing protection orders governing the petitioner and respondent. The court shall not  
7 delay granting relief because of the existence of a pending action between the petitioner and  
8 respondent or the necessity of verifying the terms of an existing protection order. A petition for  
9 an ERPO under this Chapter may be granted whether or not there is a pending action between  
10 the petitioner and respondent.

11 (f) Nondisclosure of Address. – A petitioner with a current and valid Address  
12 Confidentiality Program authorization card issued pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 15C of  
13 the General Statutes may use the substitute address designated by the Address Confidentiality  
14 Program when filing with the court any document required under this Chapter.

15 (g) Court Costs and Attorneys' Fees. – No court costs or attorneys' fees shall be assessed  
16 for the filing or service of the petition, or the service of any ERPOs, except as provided in  
17 G.S. 1A-1, Rule 11.

18 (h) Electronic Filing. – All documents filed, issued, registered, or served in an action  
19 under this Chapter relating to an ERPO may be filed electronically.

20 **"§ 50E-5. Process.**

21 (a) Summons Required. – Except as otherwise provided in G.S. 50E-7, a petition for an  
22 ERPO requires that a summons be issued and served not later than five days prior to the date set  
23 for the full ERPO hearing. Attachments to the summons shall include the petition for any ERPO,  
24 any ex parte ERPO that has been issued and the notice of hearing on the ex parte ERPO, and a  
25 description of what an ERPO is.

26 (b) Service of the Summons and Attachments. – The clerk of court shall effect service of  
27 the summons and any attachments through the appropriate law enforcement agency where the  
28 respondent is to be served.

29 **"§ 50E-6. ERPO requirements; remedy; mental health or chemical dependency evaluation.**

30 (a) Required Information in ERPO. – An ERPO issued under this Chapter shall include  
31 all of the following:

- 32 (1) A statement of the grounds supporting issuance of the ERPO.
- 33 (2) The date and time the ERPO was issued.
- 34 (3) The date and time the ERPO expires.
- 35 (4) Whether a mental health evaluation or chemical dependency evaluation of the  
36 respondent is required.
- 37 (5) The address of the court in which any responsive pleading may be filed.
- 38 (6) A description of the requirements for relinquishment and retrieval of any  
39 firearms, ammunition, permits to purchase firearms, and permits to carry  
40 concealed firearms that are in the care, custody, ownership, or control of the  
41 respondent.
- 42 (7) A description of the process for seeking termination of the ERPO.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

**TABLED**

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 4 of 11

1           (8) A statement that a violation of the ERPO is punishable as a Class A1  
2           misdemeanor.

3           (b) Remedy Granted. – Upon issuance of an ERPO, including an ex parte ERPO, the  
4 court shall order the respondent to surrender to the sheriff all firearms, ammunition, permits to  
5 purchase firearms, and permits to carry concealed firearms that are in the care, custody,  
6 possession, ownership, or control of the respondent.

7           (c) Mental Health or Chemical Dependency Evaluation. – During a hearing for issuance  
8 of an ERPO, the court shall consider whether a mental health evaluation or chemical dependency  
9 evaluation of the respondent is appropriate and may order the respondent to undergo evaluation  
10 if appropriate.

11 **"§ 50E-7. Hearing and issuance of an ex parte Extreme Risk Protection Order.**

12           (a) Hearing. – Upon receipt of a petition for an ex parte ERPO, the court shall hold a  
13 hearing in person on the day the petition is filed or the judicial day immediately following the  
14 day the petition is filed.

15           (b) Order. – If the court finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the  
16 respondent poses an imminent danger of causing physical injury to self or others by having in his  
17 or her custody a firearm, a judge or magistrate of district court may issue an ex parte ERPO  
18 before a hearing for a full ERPO and without evidence of service of process or notice.

19           (c) Requirements. – An ex parte ERPO granted without notice shall meet all of the  
20 following requirements:

21           (1) The ERPO shall be endorsed with the date and hour of issuance.

22           (2) The ERPO shall be filed immediately in the clerk's office and entered of  
23 record.

24           (3) The ERPO shall include a statement detailing why the ERPO was granted  
25 without notice.

26           (4) The ERPO shall include the applicable information required under  
27 G.S. 50E-6(a).

28           (5) The ERPO shall expire by its terms within a specified amount of time after  
29 entry, not to exceed the limits set forth in G.S. 50E-10(a).

30           (6) The ERPO shall give notice of the date of hearing on the ex parte ERPO.

31           (d) Appearance by Respondent. – If the respondent appears in court for a hearing on an  
32 ex parte ERPO, the respondent may elect to file a general appearance and testify. Any resulting  
33 ERPO may be an ex parte ERPO governed by this section. Notwithstanding the requirements of  
34 this section, if all requirements of G.S. 50E-8 have been met, the court may issue a full ERPO.

35           (e) Court Out of Session. – When the court is not in session, the petitioner may file for  
36 an ex parte ERPO before any judge or magistrate designated to grant relief under this Article. If  
37 the judge or magistrate finds that the requirements of subsection (a) of this section have been  
38 met, the judge or magistrate may issue an ex parte ERPO. The chief district court judge may  
39 designate for each county at least one judge or magistrate to be reasonably available to issue ex  
40 parte ERPOs when the court is not in session.

41           (f) Video Conference. – Hearings held to consider ex parte relief pursuant to subsection  
42 (a) of this section may be held via video conference.

43 **"§ 50E-8. Hearing and issuance of a full Extreme Risk Protection Order.**

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

**TABLED**

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 5 of 11

1        (a) Hearing. – A court shall hold a hearing on a petition for a full ERPO no later than 10  
2 days from either of the following dates:

- 3            (1) If an ex parte ERPO has been issued, the date the ex parte ERPO was issued.  
4            (2) If subdivision (1) of this subsection does not apply, the date the petition for a  
5 full ERPO was filed with the court.

6        A continuance shall be limited to one extension of no more than 10 days unless all parties  
7 consent or good cause is shown.

8        (b) Order. – A court may issue a full ERPO if all of the following requirements are met:

- 9            (1) The court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent poses  
10 a danger of causing physical injury to self or others by having in his or her  
11 custody a firearm.  
12            (2) Process was served on the respondent in accordance with the requirements of  
13 this Article.  
14            (3) Notice of hearing was given to the respondent in accordance with the  
15 requirements of this Article.

16 **§ 50E-9. Surrender, retrieval, and disposal of firearms.**

17        (a) Surrender of Firearms. – Upon service of an ERPO, the respondent shall immediately  
18 surrender to the sheriff possession of all firearms, ammunition, permits to purchase firearms, and  
19 permits to carry concealed firearms that are in the care, custody, possession, ownership, or control  
20 of the respondent. In the event that weapons cannot be surrendered at the time the ERPO is  
21 served, the respondent shall surrender the firearms, ammunitions, and permits to the sheriff  
22 within 24 hours of service at a time and place specified by the sheriff. The sheriff shall store the  
23 firearms or contract with a licensed firearms dealer to provide storage.

24        (b) Failure to Surrender. – Upon the sworn statement of the petitioner or the sheriff  
25 alleging that the respondent has failed to comply with the surrender of firearms required under  
26 subsection (a) of this section, the court shall determine whether probable cause exists to believe  
27 that the respondent has failed to surrender all firearms in his or her care, custody, possession,  
28 ownership, or control. If probable cause exists, the court shall issue a warrant describing the  
29 firearms and authorizing (i) a search of the locations where the firearms are reasonably believed  
30 and (ii) seizure of any firearms discovered pursuant to the search.

31        (c) Receipt. – At the time of surrender or seizure, the sheriff taking possession of a  
32 firearm shall issue a receipt identifying all firearms that have been surrendered or seized and shall  
33 provide a copy of the receipt to the respondent. Within 48 hours after issuing the receipt, the  
34 officer shall file the original receipt with the court and shall also retain a copy for the sheriff's  
35 records.

36        (d) Fee. – The sheriff may charge the respondent a reasonable fee for the storage of any  
37 firearms and ammunition taken pursuant to an ERPO. The fees are payable to the sheriff. The  
38 sheriff shall transmit the proceeds of these fees to the county finance officer. The fees shall be  
39 used by the sheriff to pay the costs of administering this section and for other law enforcement  
40 purposes. The county shall expend the restricted funds for these purposes only. The sheriff shall  
41 not release firearms, ammunition, or permits without a court order granting the release. The  
42 respondent shall remit all fees owed prior to the authorized return of any firearms, ammunition,  
43 or permits. The sheriff shall not incur any civil or criminal liability for alleged damage or

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

**TABLED**

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 6 of 11

1 deterioration due to storage or transportation of any firearms or ammunition held pursuant to this  
2 section.

3 (e) Retrieval. – If the court does not enter a full ERPO when the ex parte ERPO expires,  
4 the respondent may retrieve any weapons surrendered to the sheriff unless the court finds that the  
5 respondent is otherwise precluded from owning or possessing a firearm pursuant to State or  
6 federal law.

7 (f) Motion for Return. – The respondent may request the return of any firearms,  
8 ammunition, or permits surrendered by filing a motion with the court no later than 90 days after  
9 the expiration of the ERPO. Unless the court finds that the respondent is otherwise precluded  
10 from owning or possessing a firearm pursuant to State or federal law, all firearms, ammunition,  
11 and permits surrendered by the respondent shall be returned within 30 days of the date the motion  
12 was received by the court.

13 (g) Motion for Return by Third Party. – A third-party owner of firearms or ammunition  
14 who is otherwise eligible to possess the items may file a motion requesting the return to the third  
15 party of any of the items in the possession of the sheriff surrendered or seized as a result of the  
16 entry of an ERPO. The motion must be filed not later than 30 days after the surrender or seizure  
17 of the items by the sheriff. The third-party owner shall also (i) provide proof of ownership of the  
18 firearms or ammunition and (ii) certify that the third-party owner shall not allow the respondent  
19 to have access to the firearms or ammunition. Upon receipt of the third party's motion, the court  
20 shall schedule a hearing and provide written notice to all parties and the sheriff. The court shall  
21 order return of the items to the third party unless the third-party owner fails to provide proof of  
22 ownership or certification as required under this subsection, or the court determines that the third  
23 party is disqualified from owning or possessing the items pursuant to State or federal law. If the  
24 court orders the return of the items to the third party, the third party is not required to pay any  
25 fees imposed under subsection (d) of this section. If the court denies the return of the items to the  
26 third party, the items shall be disposed of by the sheriff as provided in subsection (h) of this  
27 section.

28 (h) Disposal of Firearms. – If the respondent or a third-party owner does not file a motion  
29 within the applicable time period prescribed by this section requesting the return of any  
30 surrendered firearms, ammunition, or permits, if the court determines that the respondent or  
31 third-party owner is precluded from regaining possession of any surrendered firearms,  
32 ammunition, or permits, or if the respondent fails to remit all fees owed for the storage of the  
33 firearms or ammunition within 30 days of the entry of the order granting the return of the  
34 firearms, ammunition, or permits, the sheriff who has control of the firearms, ammunition, or  
35 permits shall give notice to the respondent and the sheriff shall apply to the court for an order of  
36 disposition of the firearms, ammunition, or permits. The judge, after a hearing, may order the  
37 sheriff in possession, or the sheriff's duly authorized agent, to destroy the firearms, ammunition,  
38 and permits, or to dispose of the firearms, ammunition, and permits in one or more of the ways  
39 authorized by law, including subdivision (4b), (5), or (6) of G.S. 14-269.1. The sheriff shall  
40 maintain a record of any firearms, ammunition, and permits destroyed in accordance with this  
41 subsection. If a sale by the sheriff does occur, any proceeds from the sale after deducting any  
42 costs associated with the storage and sale, and, in accordance with all applicable State and federal



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

**TABLED**

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 7 of 11

1 law, shall be provided to the respondent if requested by the respondent by motion made before  
2 the hearing or at the hearing and if ordered by the judge.

3 **"§ 50E-10. Duration; renewal of ERPOs.**

4 (a) Duration of Ex Parte ERPO. – Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, an ex  
5 parte ERPO shall be effective until the date a hearing is held under G.S. 50E-8. If a hearing is  
6 not held or a continuance was not granted, an ex parte ERPO shall be effective for not more than  
7 10 days from the date the ex parte ERPO was issued.

8 (b) Duration of Full ERPO. – A full ERPO shall be effective for a fixed period of time  
9 not to exceed one year.

10 (c) Renewal. – Any ERPO may be renewed one or more times, as required, provided that  
11 the requirements of G.S. 50E-7 or G.S. 50E-8, as appropriate, are satisfied. The court may renew  
12 an ERPO, including an ERPO that previously has been renewed, upon a motion by the petitioner  
13 filed before the expiration of the current ERPO. Upon a motion for a renewal, the court shall hold  
14 a hearing no later than 10 days after the date the motion is filed in court. The court may renew  
15 an ex parte ERPO if the court finds by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that there has been  
16 no material change in relevant circumstances since entry of the ex parte ERPO. The court may  
17 renew a full ERPO if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that there has been no  
18 material change in relevant circumstances since entry of the full ERPO. The commission of an  
19 act of unlawful conduct by the respondent after entry of the current ERPO is not required for an  
20 ERPO to be renewed. If the motion for renewal is uncontested and the petitioner seeks no  
21 modification of the ERPO, the ERPO may be renewed if the petitioner's motion or affidavit states  
22 that there has been no material change in relevant circumstances since entry of the ERPO and  
23 states the reason for the requested renewal. Renewals may be granted only in open court.

24 (d) Expiration Date. – An ERPO expiring on a day the court is not open for business shall  
25 expire in accordance with the provisions of Rule 6(a) of the Rules of Civil Procedure, G.S. 1A-1.

26 **"§ 50E-11. Termination of an Extreme Risk Protection Order.**

27 (a) Motion. – The respondent may request the termination of a full ERPO by filing a  
28 motion with the court. The respondent may submit no more than one motion for termination for  
29 every 12-month period the full ERPO is in effect, starting from the date of the full ERPO and  
30 continuing through any renewals.

31 (b) Hearing. – Upon receipt of a request for a hearing to terminate a full ERPO, the court  
32 shall set a date for a hearing. Notice of the request for a hearing shall be served on the petitioner  
33 in accordance with Rule 4 of the Rules of Civil Procedure. The court shall set the date for the  
34 hearing no sooner than 14 days and no later than 30 days from the date of service of the request  
35 upon the petitioner.

36 (c) Burden of Proof; Termination. – The respondent shall have the burden of proving by  
37 a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent does not pose a danger of causing physical  
38 injury to self or others by having in his or her care, custody, possession, ownership, or control a  
39 firearm. If the court finds after the hearing that the respondent has met his or her burden, the  
40 court shall terminate the full ERPO.

41 **"§ 50E-12. Notice.**

42 (a) Notice Law Enforcement; Entry into National Database. – The clerk of court shall  
43 deliver on the same day that an ERPO is issued, a certified copy of that ERPO to the sheriff of

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

**TABLED**

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 8 of 11

1 the county in which the ERPO is issued. Any order extending, modifying, or revoking an ERPO  
2 shall be promptly delivered to the sheriff by the clerk and served in a manner provided for service  
3 of process in accordance with the provisions of this section. The sheriff shall provide for prompt  
4 entry of the ERPO into the National Crime Information Center registry and shall provide for  
5 access of such orders to the courts on a 24-hour-a-day basis. Modifications, terminations,  
6 renewals, and dismissals of the ERPO shall also be promptly entered. A copy of the ERPO shall  
7 be issued promptly to and retained by the police department of the municipality of the petitioner's  
8 residence. If the petitioner's residence is not located in a municipality or in a municipality with  
9 no police department, copies shall be issued promptly to and retained by the sheriff of the county  
10 in which the petitioner's residence is located.

11 (b) Notice to Respondent. – If the respondent was not present in court when the ERPO  
12 was issued, the respondent may be served in the manner provided for service of process in civil  
13 proceedings in accordance with Rule 4(j) of the Rules of Civil Procedure. If the summons has  
14 not yet been served upon the respondent, it shall be served with the ERPO. Law enforcement  
15 agencies shall accept receipt of copies of the ERPO issued by the clerk of court by electronic  
16 transmission for service on respondents.

17 (c) Notice to Third Parties. – If the petitioner for an ERPO is a law enforcement officer  
18 or agency, the officer or agency shall make a good-faith effort to provide notice of the petition  
19 to any known third party who may be at risk of unlawful conduct from the respondent.

20 **"§ 50E-13. Prohibition; violation.**

21 (a) Prohibition. – It is unlawful for any person to possess, purchase, or receive, or attempt  
22 to possess, purchase, or receive, a firearm, ammunition, or permits to purchase or carry concealed  
23 firearms, for so long as an ERPO entered against that person in accordance with this Chapter is  
24 in effect.

25 (b) Violation. – A person who violates subsection (a) of this section or any other term of  
26 an ERPO entered pursuant to this Chapter is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor.

27 **"§ 50E-14. False statement regarding ERPO a misdemeanor.**

28 A person who knowingly makes a false statement when petitioning for an ERPO under this  
29 Chapter, or who knowingly makes a false statement to a law enforcement agency or officer that  
30 an ERPO entered pursuant to this Chapter remains in effect, is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

31 **"§ 50E-15. Remedies not exclusive.**

32 The remedies provided by this Chapter are not exclusive but are additional to other remedies  
33 provided under law.

34 **"§ 50E-16. Other authority retained.**

35 This Chapter does not affect the ability of a law enforcement officer to remove a firearm,  
36 permit to purchase firearms, or permit to carry concealed firearms from any person, or conduct  
37 any search and seizure for firearms, pursuant to other lawful authority.

38 **"§ 50E-17. Liability.**

39 Except as provided in G.S. 50E-13 or G.S. 50E-14, this Chapter shall not be interpreted to  
40 impose any criminal or civil liability on any person or entity for acts or omissions related to  
41 obtaining an ERPO, including reporting, declining to report, investigating, declining to  
42 investigate, filing, or declining to file a petition under this Chapter."

43 **SECTION 3B.(b)** Chapter 15C of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

**TABLED**

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 9 of 11

1 **"Chapter 15C.**

2 **"Address Confidentiality Program.**

3 **"§ 15C-1. Purpose.**

4 The purpose of this Chapter is to enable the State and the agencies of North Carolina to  
5 respond to requests for public records without disclosing the location of a petitioner for an  
6 Extreme Risk Protection Order or a victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or  
7 human trafficking; to enable interagency cooperation in providing address confidentiality for a  
8 petitioner for an Extreme Risk Protection Order or victims of domestic violence, sexual offense,  
9 stalking, or human trafficking; and to enable the State and its agencies to accept a program  
10 participant's use of an address designated by the Office of the Attorney General as a substitute  
11 address.

12 **"§ 15C-2. Definitions.**

13 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

14 ...

15 (2) Address Confidentiality Program or Program. – A program in the Office of  
16 the Attorney General to protect the confidentiality of the address of an ERPO  
17 petitioner or a relocated victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, or  
18 stalking to prevent the petitioner's or victim's assailants or potential assailants  
19 from finding the petitioner or victim through public records.

20 ...

21 (5a) ERPO petitioner. – The person who petitions for an Extreme Risk Protection  
22 Order under Chapter 50E of the General Statutes.

23 ...

24 **"§ 15C-3. Address Confidentiality Program.**

25 The General Assembly establishes the Address Confidentiality Program in the Office of the  
26 Attorney General to protect the confidentiality of the address of an ERPO petitioner or a relocated  
27 victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking to prevent the  
28 petitioner's or victim's assailants or potential assailants from finding the petitioner or victim  
29 through public records. Under this Program, the Attorney General shall designate a substitute  
30 address for a program participant and act as the agent of the program participant for purposes of  
31 service of process and receiving and forwarding first-class mail or certified or registered mail.  
32 The Attorney General shall not be required to forward any mail other than first-class mail or  
33 certified or registered mail to the program participant. The Attorney General shall not be required  
34 to track or otherwise maintain records of any mail received on behalf of a program participant  
35 unless the mail is certified or registered mail.

36 **"§ 15C-4. Filing and certification of applications; authorization card.**

37 (a) An individual who wants to participate in the Address Confidentiality Program shall  
38 file an application with the Attorney General with the assistance of an application assistant. Any  
39 of the following individuals may apply to the Attorney General to have an address designated by  
40 the Attorney General to serve as the substitute address of the individual:

41 (1) An adult individual.

42 (2) A parent or guardian acting on behalf of a minor when the minor resides with  
43 the individual.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

**TABLED**

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 10 of 11

- 1 (3) A guardian acting on behalf of an incapacitated individual.  
2 (b) The application shall be dated, signed, and verified by the applicant and shall be  
3 signed by the application assistant who assisted in the preparation of the application.  
4 (c) The application shall contain all of the following:  
5 (1) A statement by the applicant that the applicant is an ERPO petitioner or a  
6 victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking  
7 and that the applicant fears for the applicant's safety or the safety of the  
8 applicant's child.  
9 (2) ~~Evidence~~ Except for an applicant that is an ERPO petitioner, evidence that the  
10 applicant is a victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human  
11 trafficking. For an applicant that is an ERPO petitioner, evidence that the  
12 applicant is at risk from violence or other unlawful conduct from the  
13 respondent in a petition filed under Chapter 50E of the General Statutes. This  
14 evidence may include any of the following:  
15 a. Law enforcement, court, or other federal or state agency records or  
16 files.  
17 b. Documentation from a domestic violence program if the applicant is  
18 alleged to be a victim of domestic violence.  
19 c. Documentation from a religious, medical, or other professional from  
20 whom the applicant has sought assistance in dealing with the alleged  
21 domestic violence, sexual offense, or stalking.  
22 d. Documentation submitted to support a victim of human trafficking's  
23 application for federal assistance or benefits under federal human  
24 trafficking laws.  
25 ...  
26 (4) ~~A~~ Except for an applicant that is an ERPO petitioner, a statement by the  
27 applicant that the applicant has or will confidentially relocate in North  
28 Carolina.  
29 ...  
30 (7) The address that the applicant requests not to be disclosed by the Attorney  
31 General that directly relates to the increased risk of domestic violence, sexual  
32 offense, ~~or stalking,~~ stalking, or other unlawful conduct.  
33 ...."  
34 **SECTION 3B.(c)** G.S. 14-415.4(e) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:  
35 "(11) An ex parte or full Extreme Risk Protection Order has been issued pursuant to  
36 Chapter 50E of the General Statutes or a similar out-of-state or federal order  
37 has been issued against the petitioner and the court order issued is still in  
38 effect."  
39 **SECTION 3B.(d)** Development of Forms. – The Administrative Office of the Courts  
40 shall develop the appropriate forms to implement the processes provided under Chapter 50E of  
41 the General Statutes, as enacted by subsection (a) of this section.  
42 **SECTION 3B.(e)** Effective Date. – This section becomes effective December 1,  
43 2023."

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
Senate Bill 41

**TABLED**

AMENDMENT NO. A4  
(to be filled in by  
Principal Clerk)

S41-ASA-12 [v.2]

Page 11 of 11

1

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_  
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED \_\_\_\_\_ FAILED \_\_\_\_\_ TABLED \_\_\_\_\_