

# TABLED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
AMENDMENT  
House Bill 317

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

H317-AMW-23 [v.4]

Page 1 of 2

Amends Title [NO]  
Second Edition

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 2024

Senator Marcus

1 moves to amend the bill on page 45, lines 42-43, by inserting between those lines a new section  
2 to read:

3  
4 **"REFERENDUM REQUIREMENT FOR TOLL IMPLEMENTATION ON THE**  
5 **CAPE FEAR MEMORIAL BRIDGE**

6 **SECTION 14.2.(a)** Referendum Requirement.— No tolls shall be  
7 implemented on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge unless approved by a majority vote in a  
8 referendum held among the citizens of Brunswick and New Hanover Counties.

9 **SECTION 14.2.(b)** Referendum Process.— The referendum shall be  
10 organized and conducted by the respective county boards of elections in accordance with  
11 State election laws. The referendum shall be held during the next scheduled general  
12 election or a special election called specifically for this purpose.

13 **SECTION 14.2.(c)** Public Notification.— The North Carolina Department of  
14 Transportation (NCDOT) shall provide public notice of the proposed tolling and the  
15 referendum at least 90 days prior to the election date. Public notice shall include detailed  
16 information about the proposed toll rates, the intended use of the toll revenue, and the  
17 potential impact on commuters and residents.

18 **SECTION 14.2.(d)** Voter Information.— Informational sessions and  
19 materials shall be provided to educate voters on the implications of the tolling proposal.  
20 These sessions shall be held in multiple locations within both Brunswick and New  
21 Hanover Counties to ensure broad accessibility.

22 **SECTION 14.2.(e)** Implementation of Results.— If the majority of voters in  
23 the referendum approve the tolling proposal, NCDOT may proceed with the  
24 implementation of tolls as outlined. If the majority of voters reject the tolling proposal,  
25 NCDOT shall not implement tolls on the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge.

26 **SECTION 14.2.(f)** Effective Date.— This section is effective when it becomes  
27 law and applies to any future proposals to implement tolls on the Cape Fear Memorial  
28 Bridge.";

29  
30 and moves to amend the bill on page 45, lines 42-43, by inserting between those lines a new  
31 section to read:  
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Page 2 of 2

1 **"FERRY FEE EXEMPTIONS**

2 **SECTION 14.3.(a)** Article 6 of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes is  
3 amended by adding a new section to read:

4 **'§ 136-82.4. Residential Exemptions.**

5 (a) Purpose. – To ensure that residents who rely on the North Carolina ferry system  
6 for work or educational purposes are exempt from fees even if the system fully transitions  
7 to a paid model.

8 (b) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

9 (1) Education. – Enrollment in a recognized educational institution that  
10 requires regular commuting.

11 (2) Resident. – Any individual who resides in North Carolina and can  
12 provide proof of residency.

13 (3) Work. – Employment activities that require regular commuting.

14 (c) Fee exemption. – Notwithstanding G.S. 136-82(b), a resident who use the ferry  
15 system for commuting to work or education shall be exempt from paying ferry fees. To  
16 qualify for the exemption, residents must provide proof of residency and proof of  
17 employment or educational enrollment.'

18 **SECTION 14.3.(b)** The North Carolina Department of Transportation  
19 (Department) shall establish a process for residents to apply for the fee exemption,  
20 including an online application system and designated service centers at ferry terminals.  
21 The Department shall issue exemption cards or digital passes to eligible residents, which  
22 must be presented at the time of boarding.

23 **SECTION 14.3.(c)** The Department shall maintain records of exempted  
24 residents and monitor the usage of the ferry system by exempted individuals. An annual  
25 report shall be submitted to the General Assembly detailing the number of exempted  
26 residents, the impact on ferry system revenues, and any recommendations for  
27 improvements.

28 **SECTION 14.3.(d)** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to  
29 residents who use the ferry system for commuting for work or for education on or after  
30 July 1, 2024."

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

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

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