



Josh Stein, Governor

*State of North
Carolina*

GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 437: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONES AND INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT IMPOSED FOR COMMITTING CERTAIN DRUG OFFENSES IN A DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONE AND TO BAN UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC CAMPING OR SLEEPING IN THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF THE STATE.

We all want people experiencing homelessness to get back on their feet and live in safe, affordable housing. Yet, this poorly constructed bill makes that goal harder and creates another significant unfunded mandate for local governments. The bill also fundamentally misunderstands how people suffering from addiction get healthy. If government threatens criminal liability against those who seek treatment and against the people, organizations, and churches trying to help them, government stands in the way of services that promote health and safety, and people's problems are actually made worse. I have long called for funding to crack down on drug trafficking, invest in behavioral health, and expand affordable housing options – because homelessness and substance misuse are real problems that deserve real solutions, not this bill.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Stein", written over a horizontal line.

Josh Stein
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House on this the 8TH day of July 2026 at 10:13 AM for reconsideration by that body.

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

Date: 7.8.2026

Time: 10:13 AM

Signed: James White

- (1) The applicant has provided written notice of the alleged violation to the governing board of the local government via United States mail or electronic mail addressed to the manager or administrator of the local government.
 - (2) The applicant has provided the local government with fifteen business days, from the date the written notice was sent by the applicant, to cure the alleged violation.
 - (3) The local government has failed to take all reasonable actions within its governmental powers to cure the alleged violation within fifteen business days from the date the written notice of the alleged violation was sent by the applicant.
- (i) This section does not apply during any time period in which:
- (1) The Governor has declared a state of emergency pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.20.
 - (2) A local government has declared a state of emergency pursuant to G.S. 166A-19.22."

SECTION 2.(b) No later than June 30, 2027, the Department of Labor shall adopt the rules necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

SECTION 2.(c) Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective June 30, 2027. The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 1st day of July, 2026.

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR
 Date: 7.8.2026
 Time: 10:13AM
 Signed: James Hunt

Rachel Hunt
 Rachel Hunt
 President of the Senate

VETO

Josh Stein

Destin Hall
 Destin Hall
 Speaker of the House of Representatives

Josh Stein
 Josh Stein
 Governor

Approved _____ .m. this _____ day of _____, 2026