

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 469
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30218-MTa-99

Short Title: Restoring Rivalries Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative B. Jones.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE HIGH-ENROLLMENT CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE
3 UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO REGULARLY COMPETE AGAINST ONE
4 ANOTHER IN FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, BASEBALL, AND SOFTBALL.

5 Whereas, college athletics have long played a fundamental role in the culture and
6 economy of North Carolina, fostering school spirit, community engagement, and regional pride;
7 and

8 Whereas, recent conference realignments driven primarily by financial incentives
9 have disrupted traditional rivalries, diminished regional competition, and eroded the historic
10 significance of intrastate athletic contests; and

11 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes the critical importance of maintaining and
12 strengthening these historic rivalries, which provide economic benefits to local businesses,
13 increase fan engagement, and sustain the integrity of collegiate athletics within the State; and

14 Whereas, ensuring regular competition among North Carolina's major collegiate
15 athletic programs will not only generate substantial revenue and tourism impact, but also
16 reinforce the long-standing traditions that define the State's athletic legacy; Now, therefore,
17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

18 **SECTION 1.** Part 3 of Article 1 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended
19 by adding a new section to read:

20 "**§ 116-40.14. Intrastate athletic competition.**

21 (a) Purpose. – The purpose of this section is to ensure that high-enrollment constituent
22 institutions of The University of North Carolina regularly compete against one another in eligible
23 sports.

24 (b) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

25 (1) Eligible sport. – All of the following:

- 26 a. Football.
27 b. Men's basketball.
28 c. Women's basketball.
29 d. Baseball.
30 e. Softball.

31 (2) High-enrollment institution. – The following constituent institutions of The
32 University of North Carolina:

- 33 a. North Carolina State University at Raleigh.
34 b. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

35 (3) High-game count sport. – All of the following eligible sports:

- 36 a. Baseball.



- 1 b. Softball.
- 2 (4) Home game. – A game held at a site selected by the hosting constituent
- 3 institution, including a neutral site.
- 4 (5) Low-game count sport. – All of the following eligible sports:
- 5 a. Football.
- 6 b. Men's basketball.
- 7 c. Women's basketball.
- 8 (c) Competition Required. – Every academic year for all eligible sports, a
- 9 high-enrollment institution shall do all of the following:
- 10 (1) For each low-game count sport, play at least one home game or one away
- 11 game against another high-enrollment institution.
- 12 (2) For each high-game count sport, play a series of at least three home games or
- 13 three away games against another high-enrollment institution."
- 14 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
- 15 the 2026-2027 academic year.