

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

FILED SENATE  
Mar 24, 2025  
S.B. 429  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45205-ML-5A

Short Title: 2025 Public Safety Act.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Britt, B. Newton, and Daniel (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO SET LIMITS ON MOTIONS FOR APPROPRIATE RELIEF IN NONCAPITAL  
3 CASES; TO BAN HEMP-DERIVED CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS FROM SCHOOL  
4 GROUNDS; TO CREATE A NEW CRIMINAL OFFENSE FOR EXPOSING A CHILD TO  
5 A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE; TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR  
6 POSSESSING A FIREARM OR WEAPON OF MASS DEATH AND DESTRUCTION BY  
7 A FELON DURING THE COMMISSION OR ATTEMPTED COMMISSION OF A  
8 FELONY; TO REVISE LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DISCLOSURE AND RELEASE  
9 OF AUTOPSY INFORMATION COMPILED OR PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE  
10 CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER; TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR  
11 COMMITTING THE OFFENSE OF SOLICITATION OF MINORS BY COMPUTER; TO  
12 REVISE THE LAW GOVERNING THE GRANTING OF IMMUNITY TO WITNESSES;  
13 TO REQUIRE CERTAIN PETITIONS PERTAINING TO SEX OFFENDER  
14 REGISTRATION BE PLACED ON THE CRIMINAL DOCKET; TO CLARIFY THE  
15 STANDING OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS IN CERTAIN CASES; TO ALLOW PERSONS  
16 OUTSIDE OF THIS STATE TO FILE FOR A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTION  
17 ORDER; TO REVISE THE REQUIREMENT UNDER THE CRIME VICTIMS  
18 COMPENSATION ACT THAT CRIMINALLY INJURIOUS CONDUCT BE REPORTED  
19 TO LAW ENFORCEMENT WITHIN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS OF ITS OCCURRENCE;  
20 TO REVISE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF SECRETLY PEEPING INTO ROOM  
21 OCCUPIED BY ANOTHER PERSON; TO REVISE THE LAW PROHIBITING SEXUAL  
22 ACTIVITY BY A SUBSTITUTE PARENT OR CUSTODIAN TO INCLUDE RELIGIOUS  
23 ORGANIZATIONS OR INSTITUTIONS; TO ESTABLISH AN OFFENSE FOR  
24 WRONGFULLY ENTERING A PART OF A BUILDING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC;  
25 TO ESTABLISH THE OFFENSE OF LARCENY OF GIFT CARDS; TO REVISE THE  
26 ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT OFFENSE TO INCLUDE OFFENSES INVOLVING GIFT  
27 CARDS; TO ALLOW UNLICENSED LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES TO PRACTICE  
28 LAW UNDER SUPERVISION; TO CLARIFY THAT FELONY SCHOOL  
29 NOTIFICATIONS ARE LIMITED TO CLASS A THROUGH CLASS E FELONIES; TO  
30 ALLOW THE TRANSFER OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE BACK TO THE  
31 COLLECTING AGENCY FOR PRESERVATION; TO REVISE THE LAW GOVERNING  
32 THE RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS; TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT  
33 FOR COMMITTING THE OFFENSE OF FAILURE TO YIELD THAT RESULTS IN  
34 SERIOUS BODILY INJURY; AND TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO  
35 YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A BLIND OR PARTIALLY BLIND PEDESTRIAN.  
36 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:



**SET LIMITS ON MOTIONS FOR APPROPRIATE RELIEF IN NONCAPITAL CASES**

**SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 15A-1415 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 15A-1415. Grounds for appropriate relief which may be asserted by defendant after verdict; limitation as to time.**

(a) ~~At any time after verdict, a noncapital defendant by motion may seek appropriate relief upon any of the grounds enumerated in this section.~~ In a capital case, a defendant may file a postconviction motion for appropriate relief shall be filed based on any of the grounds enumerated in this section within 120 days from the latest of any of the following:

- (1) The court's judgment has been filed, but the defendant failed to perfect a timely ~~appeal; appeal.~~
- (2) The mandate issued by a court of the appellate division on direct appeal pursuant to N.C.R. App. P. 32(b) and the time for filing a petition for writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court has expired without a petition being ~~filed; filed.~~
- (3) The United States Supreme Court denied a timely petition for writ of certiorari of the decision on direct appeal by the Supreme Court of North ~~Carolina; Carolina.~~
- (4) Following the denial of discretionary review by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, the United States Supreme Court denied a timely petition for writ of certiorari seeking review of the decision on direct appeal by the North Carolina Court of ~~Appeals; Appeals.~~
- (5) The United States Supreme Court granted the defendant's or the State's timely petition for writ of certiorari of the decision on direct appeal by the Supreme Court of North Carolina or North Carolina Court of Appeals, but subsequently left the defendant's conviction and sentence ~~undisturbed; or undisturbed.~~
- (6) The appointment of postconviction counsel for an indigent capital defendant.

(a1) In a noncapital case, a defendant may file a postconviction motion for appropriate relief based on any of the grounds enumerated in this section within 120 days from the latest of any of the events listed in subdivisions (1) through (5) of subsection (a) of this section.

...."

**SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 15A-1419(a)(4) reads as rewritten:

"(4) The defendant failed to file a timely motion for appropriate relief as required by G.S. 15A-1415(a) subsection (a) or (a1) of G.S. 15A-1415."

**SECTION 1.(c)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to verdicts entered on or after that date.

**PROHIBIT USE OF HEMP-DERIVED CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS**

**SECTION 2.(a)** The title of Article 29A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Article 29A.

"Policy Prohibiting Use Of ~~Tobacco~~ Tobacco and Hemp-Derived Consumable Products."

**SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-407 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-407. Policy prohibiting tobacco use in school buildings, grounds, and at school-sponsored events.**

(a) ~~Not later than August 1, 2008, local boards of education~~ Governing bodies of public school units shall adopt, implement, and enforce adopt a written policy prohibiting at all times the use of any tobacco product by any person in school buildings, in school facilities, on school campuses, and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the ~~local school administrative~~ public school unit. The policy shall further prohibit the use of all tobacco products

1 by persons attending a school-sponsored event at a location not listed in this subsection when in  
2 the presence of students or school personnel or in an area where smoking is otherwise prohibited  
3 by law.

4 (b) The policy shall include at least all of the following elements:

5 (1) Adequate notice to students, parents, the public, and school personnel of the  
6 policy.

7 (2) Posting of signs prohibiting at all times the use of tobacco products by any  
8 person in and on school property.

9 (3) Requirements that school personnel enforce the policy.

10 (c) The policy may permit tobacco products to be included in instructional or research  
11 activities in public school buildings if the activity is conducted or supervised by the faculty  
12 member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not include smoking,  
13 chewing, or otherwise ingesting the tobacco product.

14 (d) ~~The North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission shall work with~~  
15 ~~local boards of education to provide assistance with the implementation of this policy including~~  
16 ~~providing information regarding smoking cessation and prevention resources.~~ Nothing in this  
17 section, G.S. 143-595 through G.S. 143-601, or any other section prohibits a ~~local board of~~  
18 ~~education governing body of a public school unit~~ from adopting and enforcing a more restrictive  
19 policy on the use of tobacco in school buildings, in school facilities, on school campuses, or at  
20 school-related or school-sponsored events, and in or on other school property."

21 **SECTION 2.(c)** Article 29A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
22 adding a new section to read:

23 **"§ 115C-407.1. Policy prohibiting use of hemp-derived consumable products in school**  
24 **buildings, grounds, and at school-sponsored events.**

25 (a) For purposes of this section, the term "hemp-derived consumable product" is a hemp  
26 product that is a finished good intended for human ingestion or inhalation that contains a delta-9  
27 THC concentration of not more than three-tenths of one percent (0.3%) on a dry weight basis but  
28 may contain concentrations of other hemp-derived cannabinoids in excess of that amount. This  
29 term does not include hemp products intended for topical application or seeds or seed-derived  
30 ingredients that are generally recognized as safe by the United States Food and Drug  
31 Administration (FDA).

32 (b) Governing bodies of public school units shall adopt a written policy prohibiting at all  
33 times the use of any hemp-derived consumable product by any person in school buildings, in  
34 school facilities, on school campuses, on school buses or school transportation service vehicles,  
35 and in or on any other school property owned or operated by the public school unit. The policy  
36 shall further prohibit the use of all hemp-derived consumable products by persons attending a  
37 school-sponsored event at a location not listed in this subsection when in the presence of students  
38 or school personnel or in an area where the use of hemp-derived consumable products is  
39 otherwise prohibited by law.

40 (c) The policy shall include at least all of the following elements:

41 (1) Adequate notice to students, parents, the public, and school personnel of the  
42 policy.

43 (2) Posting of signs prohibiting at all times the use of hemp-derived consumable  
44 products by any person in and on school property.

45 (3) Requirements that school personnel enforce the policy.

46 (d) The policy may permit hemp-derived consumable products to be included in  
47 instructional or research activities in public school buildings if the activity is conducted or  
48 supervised by the faculty member overseeing the instruction or research and the activity does not  
49 include smoking, chewing, or otherwise ingesting or inhaling the hemp-derived consumable  
50 product.

1       (e) Nothing in this section, G.S. 143-595 through G.S. 143-601, or any other section  
2 prohibits a governing body of a public school unit from adopting and enforcing a more restrictive  
3 policy on the use of hemp-derived consumable products in school buildings, in school facilities,  
4 on school campuses, or at school-related or school-sponsored events, and in or on other school  
5 property."

6       **SECTION 2.(d)** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7       "(a1) Policies Prohibiting Use of Tobacco, Hemp-Derived Consumable Products. – A  
8 charter school shall adopt policies prohibiting use of tobacco and hemp-derived consumable  
9 products in school buildings, grounds, on school buses or school transportation service vehicles,  
10 and at school-sponsored events in accordance with Article 29A of this Chapter."

11       **SECTION 2.(e)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

12       "(7h) Policies prohibiting use of tobacco and hemp-derived consumable products. –  
13 A regional school shall adopt policies prohibiting use of tobacco and  
14 hemp-derived consumable products in school buildings, grounds, on school  
15 buses or school transportation service vehicles, and at school-sponsored  
16 events in accordance with Article 29A of this Chapter."

17       **SECTION 2.(f)** G.S. 115C-150.12C is amended by adding a new subdivision to  
18 read:

19       "(15a) Policies prohibiting use of tobacco and hemp-derived consumable products. –  
20 The board of trustees shall adopt policies prohibiting use of tobacco and  
21 hemp-derived consumable products in school buildings, grounds, on school  
22 buses or school transportation service vehicles, and at school-sponsored  
23 events in accordance with Article 29A of this Chapter."

24       **SECTION 2.(g)** G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

25       "(9a) Policies prohibiting use of tobacco and hemp-derived consumable products. –  
26 The chancellor shall adopt policies prohibiting use of tobacco and  
27 hemp-derived consumable products in school buildings, grounds, on school  
28 buses or school transportation service vehicles, and at school-sponsored  
29 events in accordance with Article 29A of Chapter 115C of the General  
30 Statutes."

31       **SECTION 2.(h)** Subdivision (21) of Section 6(d) of S.L. 2018-32 reads as rewritten:

32       "(21) Article 29A, Policy Prohibiting Use of ~~Tobacco~~ Tobacco and Hemp-Derived  
33 Consumable Products."

34       **SECTION 2.(i)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning  
35 with the 2026-2027 school year.

## 36 37 **CREATE NEW CRIMINAL OFFENSE FOR EXPOSING A CHILD TO A** 38 **CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE**

39       **SECTION 3.(a)** Article 39 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by  
40 adding a new section to read:

### 41 **"§ 14-318.7. Exposing a child to a controlled substance.**

42       (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

43       (1) Child. – Any person who is less than 16 years of age.

44       (2) Controlled substance. – A controlled substance, controlled substance  
45 analogue, drug, marijuana, narcotic drug, opiate, opioid, opium poppy, poppy  
46 straw, or targeted controlled substance, all as defined in G.S. 90-87.

47       (3) Ingest. – Any means used to take into the body, to eat or drink, or otherwise  
48 consume, or absorb into the body in any way.

49       (4) Serious bodily injury. – As defined in G.S. 14-318.4.

50       (5) Serious physical injury. – As defined in G.S. 14-318.4.

1       **(b)** A person who knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally causes or permits a child to be  
2 exposed to a controlled substance is guilty of a Class H felony.

3       **(c)** A person who knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally causes or permits a child to be  
4 exposed to a controlled substance, and as a result the child ingests the controlled substance, is  
5 guilty of a Class E felony.

6       **(d)** A person who knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally causes or permits a child to be  
7 exposed to a controlled substance, and as a result the child ingests the controlled substance,  
8 resulting in serious physical injury, is guilty of a Class D felony.

9       **(e)** A person who knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally causes or permits a child to be  
10 exposed to a controlled substance, and as a result the child ingests the controlled substance,  
11 resulting in serious bodily injury, is guilty of a Class C felony.

12       **(f)** A person who knowingly, recklessly, or intentionally causes or permits a child to be  
13 exposed to a controlled substance, and as a result the child ingests the controlled substance, and  
14 the ingestion is the proximate cause of death, is guilty of a Class B1 felony.

15       **(g)** The punishments set forth in subsections (b) through (f) of this section apply unless  
16 the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment."

17       **SECTION 3.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
18 offenses committed on or after that date.

19  
20 **INCREASE PUNISHMENT FOR POSSESSING A FIREARM OR WEAPON OF MASS**  
21 **DEATH AND DESTRUCTION BY A FELON DURING THE COMMISSION OR**  
22 **ATTEMPTED COMMISSION OF A FELONY**

23       **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 14-415.1 reads as rewritten:

24 **"§ 14-415.1. Possession of firearms, etc., by felon prohibited.**

25       **(a)** It ~~shall be is~~ unlawful for any person who has been convicted of a felony to purchase,  
26 own, possess, or have in ~~his~~ the person's custody, care, or control any firearm or any weapon of  
27 mass death and destruction as defined in G.S. 14-288.8(c). For the purposes of this section, a  
28 firearm is (i) any weapon, including a starter gun, which will or is designed to or may readily be  
29 converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, or its frame or receiver, or (ii) any  
30 firearm muffler or firearm silencer. This section does not apply to an antique firearm, as defined  
31 in G.S. 14-409.11.

32       Every person violating the provisions of this section ~~shall be punished as~~ subsection is guilty  
33 of a Class G ~~felon~~ felony.

34       **(a1)** A person who violates subsection (a) of this section during the commission or  
35 attempted commission of a felony under (i) this Chapter or (ii) Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the  
36 General Statutes is guilty of a Class F felony.

37       **(a2)** A person who violates subsection (a) of this section and brandishes a firearm or a  
38 weapon of mass death and destruction during the commission or attempted commission of a  
39 felony under (i) this Chapter or (ii) Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is guilty of a  
40 Class D felony. For the purposes of this subsection, to brandish is to display all or part of the  
41 firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction or otherwise make the presence of the firearm  
42 or weapon of mass death and destruction known to another person.

43       **(a3)** A person who violates subsection (a) of this section and discharges a firearm or a  
44 weapon of mass death and destruction during the commission or attempted commission of a  
45 felony under (i) this Chapter or (ii) Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes is guilty of a  
46 Class C felony.

47       **(b)** Prior convictions which cause disenfranchisement under this section shall only include:

48       (1) Felony convictions in North Carolina that occur before, on, or after December  
49       1, 1995; and

50       (2) Repealed by Session Laws 1995, c. 487, s. 3, effective December 1, 1995.

- 1 (3) Violations of criminal laws of other states or of the United States that occur  
2 before, on, or after December 1, 1995, and that are substantially similar to the  
3 crimes covered in subdivision (1) which are punishable where committed by  
4 imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

5 When a person is charged under this section, records of prior convictions of any offense, whether  
6 in the courts of this State, or in the courts of any other state or of the United States, shall be  
7 admissible in evidence for the purpose of proving a violation of this section. The term  
8 "conviction" is defined as a final judgment in any case in which felony punishment, or  
9 imprisonment for a term exceeding one year, as the case may be, is authorized, without regard to  
10 the plea entered or to the sentence imposed. A judgment of a conviction of the defendant or a  
11 plea of guilty by the defendant to such an offense certified to a superior court of this State from  
12 the custodian of records of any state or federal court shall be prima facie evidence of the facts so  
13 certified.

14 (c) The indictment charging the defendant under the terms of this section shall be separate  
15 from any indictment charging him with other offenses related to or giving rise to a charge under  
16 this section. An indictment which charges the person with violation of this section must set forth  
17 the date that the prior offense was committed, the type of offense and the penalty therefor, and  
18 the date that the defendant was convicted or plead guilty to such offense, the identity of the court  
19 in which the conviction or plea of guilty took place and the verdict and judgment rendered  
20 therein.

21 (d) This section does not apply to a person who, pursuant to the law of the jurisdiction in  
22 which the conviction occurred, has been pardoned or has had his or her firearms rights restored  
23 if such restoration of rights could also be granted under North Carolina law.

24 (e) This section does not apply and there is no disentitlement under this section if the  
25 felony conviction is a violation under the laws of North Carolina, another state, or the United  
26 States that pertains to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, or restraints of trade."

27 **SECTION 4.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
28 offenses committed on or after that date.

29  
30 **REVISE LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DISCLOSURE AND RELEASE OF AUTOPSY**  
31 **INFORMATION COMPILED OR PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**  
32 **MEDICAL EXAMINER**

33 **SECTION 5.(a)** G.S. 130A-385 reads as rewritten:

34 "**§ 130A-385. Duties of medical examiner upon receipt of notice; reports; copies.**

35 ...

36 (d) Upon request by the district attorney, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the  
37 local medical examiner, and the autopsy center, as applicable, shall provide a complete copy of  
38 the medical examiner investigation file to the appropriate district attorney. For purposes of this  
39 subsection, the "medical examiner investigation file" means the finalized toxicology report, the  
40 finalized autopsy report, any autopsy examination notes, any death scene notes, the finalized  
41 report of investigation of a medical examiner, the case encounter form, any case comments, any  
42 case notes, any autopsy photographs, any scene photographs, and any video or audio recordings  
43 of the autopsy examination in the custody and control of the North Carolina Office of the Chief  
44 Medical Examiner, a pathologist designated by the Chief Medical Examiner, a county medical  
45 examiner appointed under G.S. 130A-382, ~~or an investigating medical examiner-examiner, or an~~  
46 autopsy center in connection with a death under criminal investigation by a public law  
47 enforcement agency. Each records custodian shall be is responsible for providing the portions of  
48 the medical examiner investigation file within its custody and control. This is a continuing  
49 disclosure obligation, and each records custodian shall provide to the district attorney any records  
50 or other materials responsive to the district attorney's request that are discovered or added to the  
51 medical examiner investigation file after the request was made ~~shall also be provided to the~~

1 ~~district attorney.~~ has been made. The district attorney or investigating law enforcement agency  
2 shall inform the Chief Medical Examiner, ~~the county medical examiner, or the autopsy center,~~  
3 Examiner, the county medical examiner appointed under G.S. 130A-382, the investigating  
4 medical examiner, and the autopsy center, as applicable, if when the death is no longer under  
5 criminal investigation and the continuing disclosure obligation is has terminated.

6 (d1) Any records, worksheets, reports, photographs, tests, or analyses compiled, prepared,  
7 or conducted by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, a pathologist designated by the Chief  
8 Medical Examiner, a county medical examiner appointed under G.S. 130A-382, an investigating  
9 medical examiner, or an autopsy center in connection with a death under criminal investigation  
10 by a public law enforcement agency or during the pendency of criminal charges associated with  
11 a death, including any autopsy photographs or video or audio recordings, shall be treated as  
12 records of criminal investigations pursuant to G.S. 132-1.4 and only be disclosed or released to  
13 individuals listed in G.S. 130A-389.1(b) and as follows:

14 (1) The custodian of the finalized autopsy report may release a copy at a time and  
15 location determined by the custodial agency to a personal representative of the  
16 decedent's estate to enable the personal representative to fulfill his or her  
17 duties under the law.

18 (2) The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, a pathologist designated by the  
19 Chief Medical Examiner, a county medical examiner appointed under  
20 G.S. 130A-382, an investigating medical examiner, or an autopsy center is not  
21 prohibited from disclosing or releasing information or reports when necessary  
22 to address public health or safety concerns; for public health purposes,  
23 including public health surveillance, investigations, interventions, and  
24 evaluations; to facilitate research; to comply with reporting requirements  
25 under State or federal law or in connection with State or federal grants; or to  
26 comply with any other duties imposed by law.

27 Any person who willfully and knowingly discloses or releases materials treated as records of  
28 criminal investigations in violation of this subsection, or who willfully and knowingly possesses  
29 or disseminates materials treated as records of criminal investigations that were disclosed or  
30 released in violation of this subsection, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor; provided, however,  
31 that more than one occurrence of disclosure, release, possession, or dissemination of the same  
32 item by the same person is not a separate offense. As used in this subsection, the term "disclose"  
33 means the act of making materials treated as records of criminal investigation under this  
34 subsection available for viewing or listening by a person or entity upon request, at a time and  
35 location chosen by the custodial agency, and the term "release" means the act of the custodial  
36 agency in providing a copy of materials treated as records of criminal investigation under this  
37 subsection.

38 (d2) Any other person or entity seeking disclosure or release of materials treated as records  
39 of criminal investigations under subsection (d1) of this section may commence a special  
40 proceeding in the superior court of the county where the death that is the subject of the materials  
41 occurred to obtain a court order for disclosure or release of the materials. The court may conduct  
42 an in-camera review of the materials. Upon a showing of good cause, a superior court judge may  
43 issue an order authorizing the disclosure or release of the materials and may prescribe any  
44 restrictions or stipulations that the superior court judge deems appropriate. The petitioner shall  
45 provide reasonable notice of the commencement of the special proceeding and reasonable notice  
46 of the opportunity to be present and heard at any hearing on the matter in accordance with Rule  
47 5 of the Rules of Civil Procedure. The notice shall be provided, in writing, to the Office of the  
48 Chief Medical Examiner, the district attorney of the county in which the death occurred, the  
49 personal representative of the estate of the deceased, if any, and the surviving spouse of the  
50 deceased. If there is no surviving spouse, then the notice shall be provided to the deceased's  
51 parents, and if the deceased has no living parent, then to the adult child of the deceased or to the

1 guardian or custodian of a minor child of the deceased. In determining good cause, the judge  
2 shall consider whether the disclosure or release is necessary for the public evaluation of  
3 governmental performance, the seriousness of the intrusion into the family's right to privacy,  
4 whether the requested disclosure or release is the least intrusive means available, the need to  
5 withhold the records to facilitate the investigation or prosecution of criminal offenses, the rights  
6 of the defendant in any ongoing criminal investigation or prosecution, the public interest in  
7 having access to the records, and the availability of similar information in other public records,  
8 regardless of form. A party aggrieved by an order of the superior court authorized by this  
9 subsection may appeal in accordance with Article 27 of Chapter 1 of the General Statutes.

10 (e) In cases where death occurred due to an injury received in the course of the decedent's  
11 employment, the Chief Medical Examiner shall forward to the Commissioner of Labor a copy of  
12 the medical examiner's report of the investigation, including the location of the fatal injury and  
13 the name and address of the decedent's employer at the time of the fatal injury. The Chief Medical  
14 Examiner shall forward this report within 30 days of receipt of the information from the medical  
15 examiner.

16 (f) If a death occurred in a facility licensed subject to Article 2 or Article 3 of Chapter  
17 122C of the General Statutes, or Articles 1 or 1A of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes, and  
18 the deceased was a client or resident of the facility or a recipient of facility services at the time  
19 of death, then the Chief Medical Examiner shall forward a copy of the medical examiner's report  
20 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services within 30 days ~~of~~ after receipt of the report from  
21 the medical examiner."

22 **SECTION 5.(b)** G.S. 130A-389.1 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 130A-389.1. Photographs and video or audio recordings made pursuant to autopsy.**

24 (a) Except as otherwise provided by ~~law,~~ law and excluding any materials treated as  
25 records of criminal investigations under G.S. 130A-385(d1), any person may inspect and  
26 examine original photographs or video or audio recordings of an autopsy performed pursuant to  
27 G.S. 130A-389(a) at reasonable times and under reasonable supervision of the custodian of the  
28 photographs or recordings. Except as otherwise provided by this section, no custodian of the  
29 original recorded images shall furnish copies of photographs or video or audio recordings of an  
30 autopsy to the public. For purposes of this section, the Chief Medical Examiner shall be the  
31 custodian of all autopsy photographs or video or audio recordings unless the photographs or  
32 recordings were taken by or at the direction of an investigating medical examiner and the  
33 investigating medical examiner retains the original photographs or recordings. ~~If~~ Except in cases  
34 in which the materials are treated as records of criminal investigations under G.S. 130A-385(d1),  
35 if the investigating medical examiner has retained the original photographs or recordings, then  
36 the investigating medical examiner is the custodian of the photographs or video or audio  
37 recordings and ~~must~~ shall allow the public to inspect and examine them in accordance with this  
38 subsection.

39 ...

40 (d) A person who is denied access to copies of photographs or video or audio recordings,  
41 or who is restricted in the use the person may make of the photographs or video or audio  
42 recordings under this section, may commence a special proceeding in accordance with Article 33  
43 of Chapter 1 of the General Statutes. Upon a showing of good cause, the clerk may issue an order  
44 authorizing the person to copy or disclose a photograph or video or audio recording of an autopsy  
45 and may prescribe any restrictions or stipulations that the clerk deems appropriate. In determining  
46 good cause, the clerk shall consider whether the disclosure is necessary for the public evaluation  
47 of governmental performance; the seriousness of the intrusion into the family's right to privacy  
48 and whether the disclosure is the least intrusive means available; and the availability of similar  
49 information in other public records, regardless of form. In all cases, the viewing, copying,  
50 listening to, or other handling of a photograph or video or audio recording of an autopsy shall be  
51 under the direct supervision of the Chief Medical Examiner or the Chief Medical Examiner's



1 designee. A party aggrieved by an order of the clerk may appeal to the appropriate court in  
2 accordance with Article 27A of Chapter 1 of the General Statutes. This subsection does not apply  
3 to autopsy photographs or video or audio recordings that are treated as records of criminal  
4 investigations under G.S. 130A-385(d1), which may be disclosed or released to other persons or  
5 entities only in accordance with G.S. 130A-385(d2).

6 ...."

7 **SECTION 5.(c)** G.S. 132-1.8 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 132-1.8. Confidentiality of photographs and video or audio recordings made pursuant**  
9 **to autopsy.**

10 Except as otherwise provided in G.S. 130A-389.1, a photograph or video or audio recording  
11 of an official autopsy is not a public record as defined by G.S. 132-1. However, the text of an  
12 official autopsy report, including any findings and interpretations prepared in accordance with  
13 G.S. 130A-389(a), is a public record and fully accessible by the ~~public~~ public, unless the report  
14 is treated as a record of criminal investigation under G.S. 130A-385(d1). For purposes of this  
15 section, an official autopsy is an autopsy performed pursuant to G.S. 130A-389(a)."

16 **SECTION 5.(d)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2025.

## 17 18 **INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING THE OFFENSE OF** 19 **SOLICITATION OF MINORS BY COMPUTER**

20 **SECTION 6.(a)** G.S. 14-202.3(c) reads as rewritten:

21 "(c) Punishment. – A violation of this section is punishable as follows:

- 22 (1) A violation is a Class ~~H-E~~ felony except as provided by subdivision (2) of this  
23 subsection.  
24 (2) If either the defendant, or any other person for whom the defendant was  
25 arranging the meeting in violation of this section, actually appears at the  
26 meeting location, then the violation is a Class ~~G-C~~ felony."

27 **SECTION 6.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
28 offenses committed on or after that date.

## 29 30 **REVISE THE LAW GOVERNING THE GRANTING OF IMMUNITY TO WITNESSES**

31 **SECTION 7.(a)** G.S. 15A-1052(b) reads as rewritten:

32 "(b) The application may be made whenever, in the judgment of the district attorney, the  
33 witness has asserted or is likely to assert ~~his~~ the witness's privilege against self-incrimination and  
34 ~~his~~ the witness's testimony or other information is or will be necessary to the public interest.  
35 ~~Before making application to the judge, the district attorney must inform the Attorney General,~~  
36 ~~or a deputy or assistant attorney general designated by him, of the circumstances and his intent~~  
37 ~~to make an application."~~

38 **SECTION 7.(b)** G.S. 15A-1053(b) reads as rewritten:

39 "(b) The application may be made when the district attorney has been informed by the  
40 foreman of the grand jury that the witness has asserted ~~his~~ the witness's privilege against  
41 self-incrimination and the district attorney determines that the testimony or other information is  
42 necessary to the public interest. ~~Before making application to the judge, the district attorney must~~  
43 ~~inform the Attorney General, or a deputy or assistant attorney general designated by him, of the~~  
44 ~~circumstances and his intent to make an application."~~

45 **SECTION 7.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to  
46 applications made on or after that date.

## 47 48 **REQUIRE CERTAIN PETITIONS PERTAINING TO SEX OFFENDER** 49 **REGISTRATION BE PLACED ON THE CRIMINAL DOCKET**

50 **SECTION 8.(a)** G.S. 14-208.12A(a) reads as rewritten:

51 "**§ 14-208.12A. Request for termination of registration requirement.**

1 (a) Ten years from the date of initial county registration, a person required to register  
2 under this Part may petition the superior court to terminate the 30-year registration requirement  
3 if the person has not been convicted of a subsequent offense requiring registration under this  
4 Article.

5 If the reportable conviction is for an offense that occurred in North Carolina, the petition shall  
6 be filed in the district where the person was convicted of the offense.

7 If the reportable conviction is for an offense that occurred in another state, the petition shall  
8 be filed in the district where the person resides. A person who petitions to terminate the  
9 registration requirement for a reportable conviction that is an out-of-state offense shall also do  
10 the following: (i) provide written notice to the sheriff of the county where the person was  
11 convicted that the person is petitioning the court to terminate the registration requirement and (ii)  
12 include with the petition at the time of its filing, an affidavit, signed by the petitioner, that verifies  
13 that the petitioner has notified the sheriff of the county where the person was convicted of the  
14 petition and that provides the mailing address and contact information for that sheriff.

15 Regardless of where the offense occurred, if the defendant was convicted of a reportable  
16 offense in any federal court, the conviction will be treated as an out-of-state offense for the  
17 purposes of this section.

18 The clerk of court, upon receipt of the petition, shall collect the applicable filing fee and place  
19 the petition on the criminal docket to be calendared by the district attorney pursuant to  
20 G.S. 7A-49.4."

21 **SECTION 8.(b)** G.S. 14-208.12B(b) reads as rewritten:

22 "(b) The petition shall be filed in the county in which the person resides using a form  
23 created by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The petition must be filed with the clerk of  
24 court within 30 days of the person's receipt of the notification of the requirement to register from  
25 the sheriff. The person filing the petition must serve a copy of the petition on the office of the  
26 district attorney and the sheriff in the county where the person resides within three days of filing  
27 the petition with the clerk of court. The clerk, upon receipt of the petition, shall collect the  
28 applicable filing fee and place the petition on the criminal docket to be calendared by the district  
29 attorney pursuant to G.S. 7A-49.4. The petition shall be calendared at the next regularly  
30 scheduled term of superior court. At the first setting, the petitioner must be advised of the right  
31 to have counsel present at the hearing and to the appointment of counsel if the petitioner cannot  
32 afford to retain counsel. Appointment of counsel shall be in accordance with rules adopted by  
33 the Office of Indigent Defense Services."

34 **SECTION 8.(c)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
35 petitions filed on or after that date.

## 36 37 **ALLOW PERSONS OUTSIDE OF THIS STATE TO FILE FOR A DOMESTIC** 38 **VIOLENCE PROTECTION ORDER**

39 **SECTION 9.(a)** G.S. 50B-2(a) reads as rewritten:

40 "(a) Any person residing in this State, or seeking relief for acts that have occurred in  
41 this State and the defendant resides in this State, may seek relief under this Chapter by filing a  
42 civil action or by filing a motion in any existing action filed under Chapter 50 of the General  
43 Statutes alleging acts of domestic violence against himself or herself or a minor child who resides  
44 with or is in the custody of such person. Any aggrieved party entitled to relief under this Chapter  
45 may file a civil action and proceed pro se, without the assistance of legal counsel. The district  
46 court division of the General Court of Justice shall have original jurisdiction over actions  
47 instituted under this Chapter. Any action for a domestic violence protective order requires that a  
48 summons be issued and served. The summons issued pursuant to this Chapter shall require the  
49 defendant to answer within 10 days of the date of service. Attachments to the summons shall  
50 include the complaint, notice of hearing, any temporary or ex parte order that has been issued,  
51 and other papers through the appropriate law enforcement agency where the defendant is to be

1 served. In compliance with the federal Violence Against Women Act, no court costs or attorneys'  
2 fees shall be assessed for the filing, issuance, registration, or service of a protective order or  
3 petition for a protective order or witness subpoena, except as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 11."

4 **SECTION 9.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
5 civil actions or motions filed on or after that date.

6  
7 **REVISE REQUIREMENT UNDER THE CRIME VICTIMS COMPENSATION ACT**  
8 **THAT CRIMINALLY INJURIOUS CONDUCT BE REPORTED TO LAW**  
9 **ENFORCEMENT WITHIN 72 HOURS OF ITS OCCURRENCE**

10 **SECTION 10.(a)** G.S. 15B-11(a) reads as rewritten:

11 "(a) An award of compensation shall be denied ~~if~~ if any of the following apply:

- 12 (1) The claimant fails to file an application for an award within two years after  
13 the date of the criminally injurious conduct that caused the injury or death for  
14 which the claimant seeks the ~~award~~ award.
- 15 (2) The economic loss is incurred after one year from the date of the criminally  
16 injurious conduct that caused the injury or death for which the victim seeks  
17 the award, except in the case where the victim for whom compensation is  
18 sought was 10 years old or younger at the time the injury occurred. In that  
19 case an award of compensation will be denied if the economic loss is incurred  
20 after two years from the date of the criminally injurious conduct that caused  
21 the injury or death for which the victim seeks the ~~award~~ award.
- 22 (3) The criminally injurious conduct was not reported to a law enforcement  
23 officer or agency within ~~72 hours~~ six months of its occurrence, and there was  
24 no good cause for the ~~delay~~ delay.
- 25 (4) The award would benefit the offender or the offender's accomplice, unless a  
26 determination is made that the interests of justice require that an award be  
27 approved in a particular ~~ease~~ case.
- 28 (5) The criminally injurious conduct occurred while the victim was confined in  
29 any State, county, or city prison, correctional, youth services, or juvenile  
30 facility, or local confinement facility, or half-way house, group home, or  
31 similar ~~facility~~ or facility.
- 32 (6) The victim was participating in a felony at or about the time that the victim's  
33 injury occurred."

34 **SECTION 10.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to  
35 applications filed on or after that date.

36  
37 **REVISE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF SECRETLY PEEPING INTO ROOM OCCUPIED**  
38 **BY ANOTHER PERSON**

39 **SECTION 11.(a)** G.S. 14-202 reads as rewritten:

40 "**§ 14-202. Secretly peeping into room occupied by another person.**

41 (a) Any person who shall peep secretly into any room occupied by another person shall  
42 be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

43 (a1) Unless covered by another provision of law providing greater punishment, any person  
44 who secretly or surreptitiously peeps underneath or through the clothing being worn by another  
45 person, through the use of a mirror or other device, for the purpose of viewing the body of, or the  
46 undergarments worn by, that other person without their consent shall be guilty of a Class 1  
47 misdemeanor.

48 (b) ~~For purposes of this section:~~ The following definitions apply in this section:

- 49 (1) ~~The term "photographic image" means any~~ Photographic image. – Any  
50 photograph or photographic reproduction, still or moving, or any videotape,

- 1 motion picture, or live television transmission, or any digital image of any  
2 individual.
- 3 (2) Private area of an individual. – The naked or undergarment clad genitals,  
4 pubic area, buttocks, or female breast of that individual.
- 5 (3) ~~The term "room" shall include, Room. – Includes, but is not limited to, a~~  
6 ~~bedroom, a rest room, a bathroom, a shower, and a dressing room-room, a~~  
7 ~~dressing stall, a cubicle, or other similar area designed to provide privacy.~~
- 8 (4) Under circumstances in which that individual has a reasonable expectation of  
9 privacy. – Means either of the following:
- 10 a. Circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that he or  
11 she could disrobe in privacy, without being concerned that a  
12 photographic image of a private area of the individual was being  
13 created.
- 14 b. Circumstances in which a reasonable person would believe that a  
15 private area of the individual would not be visible to the public,  
16 regardless of whether that person is in a public or private place.
- 17 (c) Unless covered by another provision of law providing greater punishment, any person  
18 who, while in possession of any device which may be used to create a photographic image, shall  
19 secretly peep into any room shall be guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor.
- 20 (d) Unless covered by another provision of law providing greater punishment, any person  
21 who, while secretly peeping into any room, uses any device to create a photographic image of  
22 another person in that room for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any  
23 person shall be guilty of a Class I felony.
- 24 ~~(e) Any person who secretly or surreptitiously uses any device to create a photographic~~  
25 ~~image of another person underneath or through the clothing being worn by that other person for~~  
26 ~~the purpose of viewing the body of, or the undergarments worn by, that other person without~~  
27 ~~their consent shall be guilty of a Class I felony.~~
- 28 (e1) Unless covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any  
29 person who, with the intent to create a photographic image of a private area of an individual  
30 without the individual's consent, knowingly does so under circumstances in which the individual  
31 has a reasonable expectation of privacy shall be guilty of a Class I felony.
- 32 (f) Any person who, for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of any  
33 person, secretly or surreptitiously uses or installs in a room any device that can be used to create  
34 a photographic image with the intent to capture the image of another without their consent shall  
35 be guilty of a Class I felony.
- 36 (g) Any person who knowingly possesses a photographic image that the person knows,  
37 or has reason to believe, was obtained in violation of this section shall be guilty of a Class I  
38 felony.
- 39 (h) Any person who disseminates or allows to be disseminated images that the person  
40 knows, or should have known, were obtained as a result of the violation of this section shall be  
41 guilty of a Class H felony if the dissemination is without the consent of the person in the  
42 photographic image.
- 43 (i) A second or subsequent felony conviction under this section shall be punished as  
44 though convicted of an offense one class higher. A second or subsequent conviction for a Class  
45 1 misdemeanor shall be punished as a Class A1 misdemeanor. A second or subsequent conviction  
46 for a Class A1 misdemeanor shall be punished as a Class I felony.
- 47 (j) If the defendant is placed on probation as a result of violation of this section:
- 48 (1) For a first conviction under this section, the judge may impose a requirement  
49 that the defendant obtain a psychological evaluation and comply with any  
50 treatment recommended as a result of that evaluation.

1 (2) For a second or subsequent conviction under this section, the judge shall  
2 impose a requirement that the defendant obtain a psychological evaluation and  
3 comply with any treatment recommended as a result of that evaluation.

4 (k) Any person whose image is captured or disseminated in violation of this section has  
5 a civil cause of action against any person who captured or disseminated the image or procured  
6 any other person to capture or disseminate the image and is entitled to recover from those persons  
7 actual damages, punitive damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and other litigation costs reasonably  
8 incurred.

9 (l) When a person violates subsection (d), ~~(e)~~, ~~(e1)~~, (f), (g), or (h) of this section, or is  
10 convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subsection (a), (a1), or (c) of this section, the  
11 sentencing court shall consider whether the person is a danger to the community and whether  
12 requiring the person to register as a sex offender pursuant to Article 27A of this Chapter would  
13 further the purposes of that Article as stated in G.S. 14-208.5. If the sentencing court rules that  
14 the person is a danger to the community and that the person shall register, then an order shall be  
15 entered requiring the person to register.

16 (m) The provisions of subsections (a), (a1), (c), ~~(e)~~, ~~(e1)~~, (g), (h), and (k) of this section  
17 do not apply ~~to~~ to either of the following:

18 (1) Law enforcement officers while discharging or attempting to discharge their  
19 official ~~duties~~; ~~or~~ duties.

20 (2) Personnel of the Division of Prisons of the Department of Adult Correction or  
21 of a local confinement facility for security purposes or during investigation of  
22 alleged misconduct by a person in the custody of the Division or the local  
23 confinement facility.

24 (n) This section does not affect the legal activities of those who are licensed pursuant to  
25 Chapter 74C, Private Protective Services, or Chapter 74D, Alarm Systems, of the General  
26 Statutes, who are legally engaged in the discharge of their official duties within their respective  
27 professions, and who are not engaging in activities for an improper purpose as described in this  
28 section."

29 **SECTION 11.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
30 offenses committed on or after that date.

31  
32 **REVISE LAW PROHIBITING SEXUAL ACTIVITY BY A SUBSTITUTE PARENT OR**  
33 **CUSTODIAN TO INCLUDE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS OR INSTITUTIONS**

34 **SECTION 12.(a)** G.S. 14-27.31(b) reads as rewritten:

35 "(b) If a person having custody of a victim of any age or a person who is an agent or  
36 employee of any person, or institution, including a religious organization or institution, whether  
37 such institution is private, charitable, or governmental, having custody of a victim of any age  
38 engages in vaginal intercourse or a sexual act with such victim, the defendant is guilty of a Class  
39 E felony."

40 **SECTION 12.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
41 offenses committed on or after that date.

42  
43 **ESTABLISH THE OFFENSE OF LARCENY OF GIFT CARDS AND REVISE THE**  
44 **ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT OFFENSE TO INCLUDE OFFENSES INVOLVING**  
45 **GIFT CARDS**

46 **SECTION 13.(a)** Article 16 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by  
47 adding a new section to read:

48 **"§ 14-72.12. Larceny of gift cards; receiving stolen gift cards or possessing stolen gift cards.**

49 (a) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the terms "gift card," "gift card issuer,"  
50 "gift card redemption information," and "gift card value" are as defined in G.S. 14-86.5.

1 (b) Offense. – A person commits the offense of larceny of gift cards if the person does  
2 any of the following:

- 3 (1) Acquires or retains possession of a gift card or gift card redemption  
4 information without the consent of the cardholder or card issuer.  
5 (2) Obtains a gift card or gift card redemption information from a cardholder or  
6 card issuer by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, or  
7 promises.  
8 (3) Alters or tampers with a gift card or its packaging with intent to defraud  
9 another.

10 (c) Punishment. – A violation of this section is a Class 1 misdemeanor if the value of the  
11 gift card acquired, retained, or for which the card redemption information is obtained, or is altered  
12 or tampered with, is not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000). Any other violation of this  
13 section is a Class H felony."

14 **SECTION 13.(b)** G.S. 14-86.5 reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 14-86.5. Definitions.**

16 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 17 (1) "Retail property."— Any article, product, commodity, item, or component  
18 intended to be sold in retail commerce.Gift card. – A record evidencing a  
19 promise, made for monetary consideration, by a seller or issuer that goods or  
20 services will be provided to the owner of the record to the value shown in the  
21 record. A gift card includes a record that contains a microprocessor chip,  
22 magnetic strip, or other storage medium that is prefunded and for which the  
23 value is adjusted upon each use, a gift certificate, a stored-value card or  
24 certificate, a store card, or a prepaid long-distance telephone service that is  
25 activated by a prepaid card that requires dialing an access number or an access  
26 code in addition to dialing the phone number to which the user of the prepaid  
27 card seeks to connect.  
28 (2) Repealed by Session Laws 2024-22, s. 2(a), effective December 1, 2024, and  
29 applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.  
30 (3) "Theft."— To take possession of, carry away, transfer, or cause to be carried  
31 away the retail property of another with the intent to steal the retail  
32 property.Gift card issuer. – Any person or entity that sells, distributes, or  
33 supplies a gift card.  
34 (4) "Value."— The retail value of an item as advertised by the affected retail  
35 establishment, to include all applicable taxes.Gift card redemption  
36 information. – Any information unique to a gift card that allows the cardholder  
37 to access, transfer, or spend the funds on that gift card.  
38 (5) Gift card value. – The maximum monetary value that can be applied to the  
39 card.  
40 (6) Retail property. – Any article, product, commodity, item, or component  
41 intended to be sold in retail commerce.  
42 (7) Theft. – To take possession of, carry away, transfer, or cause to be carried  
43 away the retail property of another with the intent to steal the retail property.  
44 (8) Value. – The retail value of an item as advertised by the affected retail  
45 establishment, to include all applicable taxes."

46 **SECTION 13.(c)** G.S. 14-86.6 reads as rewritten:

47 **"§ 14-86.6. Organized retail theft.**

48 (a) Offense. – A person commits the offense of organized retail theft if the person does  
49 any of the following:

- 1 (1) Conspires with another person to commit theft of retail property from retail
- 2 establishments with the intent to sell, transfer, or possess that retail property
- 3 for monetary or other gain.
- 4 (2) Receives or possesses any retail property that has been taken or stolen in
- 5 violation of subdivision (1) of this subsection while knowing or having
- 6 reasonable grounds to believe the property is stolen.
- 7 (3) Conspires with two or more other persons as an organizer, supervisor,
- 8 financier, leader, or manager to engage for profit in a scheme or course of
- 9 conduct to effectuate or intend to effectuate the transfer or sale of property
- 10 stolen from a merchant in violation of this section.
- 11 (4) Conspires with another person to acquire or retain possession of a gift card or
- 12 gift card redemption information without the consent of the cardholder or card
- 13 issuer.
- 14 (5) Devises a scheme with one or more persons to obtain a gift card or gift card
- 15 redemption information from a cardholder or card issuer by means of false or
- 16 fraudulent pretenses, representations, or promises.
- 17 (6) Conspires with another person to alter or tamper with a gift card or its
- 18 packaging with intent to defraud another.

19 ...  
 20 (a2) Punishments. – The following classifications apply to the offense of organized retail  
 21 theft:

- 22 (1) An offense when the gift card value or the retail property has a value
- 23 exceeding one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500) aggregated over a
- 24 90-day period is a Class H felony.
- 25 (2) An offense when the gift card value or the retail property has a value
- 26 exceeding twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) aggregated over a 90-day period
- 27 is a Class G felony.
- 28 (3) An offense when the gift card value or the retail property has a value
- 29 exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) aggregated over a 90-day period is
- 30 a Class F felony.
- 31 (4) An offense when the gift card value or the retail property has a value
- 32 exceeding one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) aggregated over a 90-day
- 33 period is a Class C felony.

34 ...  
 35 (c) Multiple Thefts. – Thefts of gift cards, gift card redemption information, or retail  
 36 property occurring in more than one county may be aggregated into an alleged violation of this  
 37 section. Each county where a part of the charged offense occurs has concurrent venue as  
 38 described in G.S. 15A-132."

39 **SECTION 13.(d)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
 40 offenses committed on or after that date.

41  
 42 **ESTABLISH AN OFFENSE FOR WRONGFULLY ENTERING A PART OF A**  
 43 **BUILDING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

44 **SECTION 14.(a)** G.S. 14-54 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:  
 45 "(b1) Any person who knowingly and wrongfully enters any area of a building that is (i)  
 46 commonly reserved for personnel of a commercial business where money or other property is  
 47 kept or (ii) clearly marked with a sign that indicates to the public that entry is forbidden is guilty  
 48 of a Class 1 misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class I felony for a second or subsequent  
 49 offense."

50 **SECTION 14.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
 51 offenses committed on or after that date.

1  
2 **ALLOW UNLICENSED LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES TO PRACTICE LAW UNDER**  
3 **SUPERVISION**

4 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 84-7.1 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

5 "(4) Any law school graduate permitted by the North Carolina State Bar to act as  
6 a legal intern for a federal, State, local government agency, or for a nonprofit  
7 corporation qualified to render legal services pursuant to G.S. 84-5.1."  
8

9 **CLARIFY THAT ALL FELONY SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS ARE LIMITED TO**  
10 **CLASS A THROUGH CLASS E FELONIES**

11 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 7B-3101(a) reads as rewritten:

12 "(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 7B-3000, the juvenile court counselor shall deliver verbal and  
13 written notification of any of the following actions to the principal of the school that the juvenile  
14 attends:

- 15 (1) A petition is filed under G.S. 7B-1802 that alleges delinquency for an offense  
16 that would constitute a Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felony if committed by an  
17 adult. The principal of the school shall make an individualized decision related  
18 to the status of the student during the pendency of the matter and not have an  
19 automatic suspension policy.
- 20 (2) The court transfers jurisdiction over a juvenile to the superior court under  
21 G.S. 7B-2200.5 or ~~G.S. 7B-2200~~ G.S. 7B-2200 for an offense that would  
22 constitute a Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felony if committed by an adult.
- 23 (3) The court dismisses under G.S. 7B-2411 the petition that alleges delinquency  
24 for an offense that would be a Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felony if committed  
25 by an adult.
- 26 (4) The court issues a dispositional order under Article 25 of Chapter 7B of the  
27 General Statutes including, but not limited to, an order of probation that  
28 requires school attendance, concerning a juvenile alleged or found delinquent  
29 for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult.
- 30 (5) The court modifies or vacates any order or disposition under G.S. 7B-2600  
31 concerning a juvenile alleged or found delinquent for an offense that would  
32 be a Class A, B1, B2, C, D, or E felony if committed by an adult.

33 Notification of the school principal in person or by telephone shall be made before the  
34 beginning of the next school day. Delivery shall be made as soon as practicable but at least within  
35 five days of the action. Delivery shall be made in person or by certified mail. Notification that a  
36 petition has been filed shall describe the nature of the offense. Notification of a dispositional  
37 order, a modified or vacated order, or a transfer to superior court shall describe the court's action  
38 and any applicable disposition requirements. As used in this subsection, the term "offense" does  
39 not include any offense under Chapter 20 of the General Statutes."  
40

41 **ALLOW TRANSFER OF BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE BACK TO THE COLLECTING**  
42 **AGENCY FOR PRESERVATION**

43 **SECTION 17.** G.S. 15A-268(a3) reads as rewritten:

44 "(a3) When physical evidence is offered or admitted into evidence in a criminal proceeding  
45 of the General Court of Justice, the presiding judge shall inquire of the State and defendant as to  
46 the identity of the collecting agency of the evidence and whether the evidence in question is  
47 reasonably likely to contain biological evidence and if that biological evidence is relevant to  
48 establishing the identity of the perpetrator in the case. If either party asserts that the evidence in  
49 question may have biological evidentiary value, and the court so finds, the court shall instruct  
50 that the evidence be so designated in the court's records and that the evidence be preserved  
51 pursuant to the requirements of this section. The court may order that the evidence be returned



1 to the collecting agency to be preserved pursuant to subsection (a4) of this section at a request  
2 from the district attorney, the clerk, and the collecting agency if the court finds that the collecting  
3 agency is better equipped to preserve the evidence and the district attorney, the clerk, and the  
4 collecting agency all agree. If the court orders the return pursuant to this subsection, the evidence  
5 shall be preserved until such time as the clerk notifies the collecting agency that preservation is  
6 no longer required for the period prescribed in subsection (a4) of this section and the period  
7 required pursuant to subsection (a6) of this section has also passed."

## 9 **REVISE LAW GOVERNING THE RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS**

10 **SECTION 18.(a)** G.S. 15A-1241 reads as rewritten:

11 **"§ 15A-1241. Record of proceedings.**

12 (a) The trial judge must require that the reporter make a true, complete, and accurate  
13 record of all statements from the bench and all other proceedings except:

- 14 (1) Selection of the jury in noncapital cases;
- 15 (2) Opening statements and final arguments of counsel to the jury; and
- 16 (3) Arguments of counsel on questions of law.

17 (b) Upon motion of any party or on the judge's own motion, proceedings excepted under  
18 ~~subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (a) of this section~~ must be recorded. The motion for  
19 recordation of jury arguments must be made before the commencement of any argument and if  
20 one argument is recorded all must be. Upon suggestion of improper argument, when no  
21 recordation has been requested or ordered, the judge in his discretion may require the remainder  
22 to be recorded.

23 ...."

24 **SECTION 18.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to  
25 proceedings commenced on or after that date.

## 27 **INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING THE OFFENSE OF FAILURE** 28 **TO YIELD THAT RESULTS IN SERIOUS BODILY INJURY**

29 **SECTION 19.(a)** G.S. 20-160.1(a) reads as rewritten:

30 "(a) Unless the conduct is covered under some other law providing greater punishment, a  
31 person who commits the offense of failure to yield while approaching or entering an intersection,  
32 turning at a stop or yield sign, entering a roadway, upon the approach of an emergency vehicle,  
33 or at highway construction or maintenance shall be punished under this section. When there is  
34 serious bodily injury but no death resulting from the violation, the violator is guilty of a Class 2  
35 misdemeanor, which shall be fined include a fine of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and and, upon  
36 conviction, revocation of the violator's drivers license or commercial drivers license ~~shall be~~  
37 ~~suspended~~ for 90 days."

38 **SECTION 19.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to  
39 offenses committed on or after that date.

## 41 **INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A** 42 **BLIND OR PARTIALLY BLIND PEDESTRIAN**

43 **SECTION 20.(a)** G.S. 20-175.2 reads as rewritten:

44 **"§ 20-175.2. Right-of-way at crossings, intersections and traffic-control signal points; white**  
45 **cane or guide dog to serve as signal for the blind.**

46 At any street, road or highway crossing or intersection, where the movement of traffic is not  
47 regulated by a traffic officer or by traffic-control signals, any blind or partially blind pedestrian  
48 shall be entitled to the right-of-way at such crossing or intersection, if such blind or partially  
49 blind pedestrian shall extend before him at arm's length a cane white in color or white tipped with  
50 red, or if such person is accompanied by a guide dog. Upon receiving such a signal, all vehicles  
51 at or approaching such intersection or crossing shall come to a full stop, leaving a clear lane

1 through which such pedestrian may pass, and such vehicle shall remain stationary until such blind  
2 or partially blind pedestrian has completed the passage of such crossing or intersection. At any  
3 street, road or highway crossing or intersection, where the movement of traffic is regulated by  
4 traffic-control signals, blind or partially blind pedestrians shall be entitled to the right-of-way if  
5 such person having such cane or accompanied by a guide dog shall be partly across such crossing  
6 or intersection at the time the traffic-control signals change, and all vehicles shall stop and remain  
7 stationary until such pedestrian has completed passage across the intersection or crossing. Any  
8 person who fails to yield the right-of-way to a blind or partially blind pedestrian as required by  
9 this section is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

10 **SECTION 20.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2026, and applies to  
11 offenses committed on or after that date.

12  
13 **SEVERABILITY, SAVINGS CLAUSE, AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

14 **SECTION 21.(a)** If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the  
15 invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect  
16 without the invalid provisions or application and, to this end, the provisions of this act are  
17 severable.

18 **SECTION 21.(b)** Prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of  
19 this act are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for  
20 this act remain applicable to those prosecutions.

21 **SECTION 21.(c)** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
22 law.