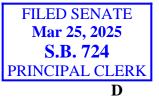
## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2025



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## SENATE BILL DRS15301-LM-96B

	Short Title:	Safe Parks & Public Spaces Act.	(Public)				
	Sponsors:	Senators Alexander, Overcash, and Lazzara (Primary Sponsors).					
	Referred to:	Referred to:					
1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED					
2	AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SAFE PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES ACT.						
3	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:						
4	<b>SECTION 1.</b> Article 9 of Chapter 160D of the General Statutes is amended by						
5	adding a new section to read:						
6	" <u>§ 160D-917. Camping in public spaces.</u>						
7	(a) <u>Purpose. – The purpose of this section is to protect the public from the dangers of</u>						
8	unauthorized street camping in public parks, rights-of-way, and other public spaces. The General						
9	Assembly recognizes the risk presented by unauthorized street camping, including conduct that						
10		proliferation of drugs and drug paraphernalia, threats of random acts o					
11	and the spread of disease and detritus. It is the intention of the General Assembly to protect the						
12	people of the State of North Carolina in public spaces and rights-of-way by enacting a prohibition						
13	on unauthorized camping in public spaces.						
14		efinitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply					
15	<u>(1</u>						
16		or facility, that allows temporary overnight occupancy without a pe	ermanently				
17	(7	<u>fixed structure.</u>	a naina aa				
18	<u>(2</u>						
19		a substitute for regular shelter, any public property or right-	•				
20		evidenced by, but not limited to, the erection of a tent or other					
21 22	(a) <b>D</b>	shelter, the presence of bedding or pillows, or the storage of persona					
		rohibition. – It shall be unlawful for any person to intentionally or knowin nping in any location that is not designated as a campsite by the State or					
23							
24 25		r political subdivision of the State. This subsection does not apply to					
25 26	property that has been designated by the State, county, city, or any other political subdivision with jurisdiction over the property as a temporary site for unsheltered homeless encampments. A						
20 27		this subsection shall be a Class 3 misdemeanor; provided, however, for	-				
27							
28 29	offense, a violator shall not be charged with a misdemeanor but shall instead be directed to the nearest emergency shelter for homeless individuals.						
		ocal government actions. – A county or municipality shall not do eit	than of the				
30		<u>ocal government actions. – A county of municipanty shall not do en</u>	<u>Iner of the</u>				
31 32	following:	Authorize or otherwise allow any person to regularly engage	in public				
33	<u>(1</u>	camping or sleeping on any public property that has not been design					
33 34		campsite by the State or a county, city, or other political subdiv					
34 35		jurisdiction over the area, including, but not limited to, any public					
35 36		public grounds, or public rights-of-way. This subsection does not a	-				
20		puone grounds, or puone rights-or-way. This subsection does not a	<u>ppiy to ally</u>				



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1			property designated as a temporary site for unsheltered homeless		
2			encampments.		
3		(2)	Prohibit or discourage law enforcement officers or prosecuting attorneys		
1			under their employ from enforcing any ordinance or other regulation		
5			prohibiting public camping, sleeping, or obstruction of sidewalks or other		
5			rights-of-way within the jurisdictional limits of the county or municipality.		
7	<u>(e)</u>	Enfor	rcement Any resident of a county or city, owner of a business located within		
3	a county or city, or the Attorney General may bring a civil action in any court of competent				
)	jurisdiction against any county or municipality to enjoin a violation of subsection (d) of this				
)	section. If the resident or business owner prevails in the civil action, the court may award				
L	reasonable expenses incurred in bringing the civil action, including court costs, attorneys' fees,				
2	investigative costs, witness fees, and deposition costs. An application for an injunction under this				
3	subsection shall be accompanied by an affidavit attesting to all of the following:				
ŀ		<u>(1)</u>	The applicant has provided written notice of the alleged violation to the		
5			governing body of the county or municipality.		
;		<u>(2)</u>	The applicant has provided the county or municipality with five business days		
,			to cure the alleged violation.		
3		<u>(3)</u>	The county or municipality has failed to take all reasonable actions within its		
)			powers to cure the alleged violation within 5 business days after receiving		
)			written notice of the alleged violation from the applicant.		
-	<u>(f)</u>		tate funds shall be appropriated to a county or municipality for homelessness		
2		-	ention, or services if the county or municipality violates the provisions of this		
3	section an		to remedy the violation as required by this section."		
4		SEC	<b>TION 2.</b> This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.		