

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 646
Apr 1, 2025
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40353-MCy-11

Short Title: Const. Amend.: Remove Slavery as Punishment. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Buansi.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MAKE ABSOLUTE THE PROHIBITION AGAINST SLAVERY AND
3 INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE IN THE STATE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 17 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution reads as
6 rewritten:

7 "**Sec. 17. Slavery and involuntary servitude.**

8 Slavery is forever prohibited. Involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime
9 whereof the parties have been adjudged guilty, is and involuntary servitude are forever
10 prohibited."

11 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to
12 the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2026,
13 which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections at that time.
14 The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

15 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

16 Constitutional amendment providing that slavery and involuntary servitude are
17 forever prohibited."

18 **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Elections shall certify the results of the referendum
19 conducted under Section 2 of this act. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of
20 the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment
21 among the permanent records of that office. If a majority of votes cast on the question are against
22 the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the amendment shall have no effect.

23 **SECTION 4.** If the certification from the State Board of Elections under Section 3
24 of this act reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment set
25 out in Section 1 of this act, the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act is effective upon
26 certification.

27 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
28 law.

