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Focusing on Legislative Representation

LEGISLATIVE REPORT May 4, 2026

INTRODUCTION

BILLS, BILLS and more BILLS! The short session has just started but we have seen a flood of legislation filed – with almost 500 bills in the first 7 days of the session. Part of that is not surprising since all bills filed based upon study committees had to be filed by April 29th and all bills impacting the budget had to be filed by April 30th. However, usually the filing period is pretty quiet for the short session. This year it is clear that many bills have been filed to make a statement on issues that are important to the legislator. Especially for Democrats who do not have a good way to move their bills, it is a way to get their priorities out there.

You will see in this report many bills regarding health care, immigration, education, housing, tax policy and many, many other issues that will not receive a hearing in a committee. Without bi-partisan support or the support of leadership, these bills will not move forward.

We have summarized the bills that were filed through the 29th and will have the bills filed on the 30th and for this week in the next report! Happy Reading!

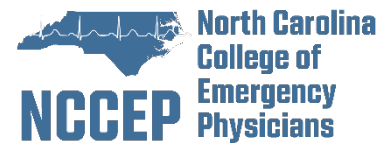
BILLS OF INTEREST

House Bill 1047, North Carolina Microplastics Study Act, would direct the North Carolina Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to (1) investigate the potential impact of plastic particles on waters of the State and develop strategies to address the impacts of plastic particles and (2) submit a comprehensive report with findings, a detailed risk assessment, and recommended actions to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Environmental Review Commission by July 1, 2027. **Introduced by Representatives Price, Butler, K. Brown, and Harrison and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1059, Fair Minimum Wage Act, would establish a state minimum wage at \$15/hr. that adjusts upward automatically for inflation, create the North Carolina Wage Board, establish the short-time compensation program, repeal the restriction on local minimum wages, and appropriate funds



NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS



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to implement the same. **Introduced by Representatives Prather, Longest, Buansi, and K. Brown and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1060, AG Investigations/Certain ICE & CBP Incidents, would require the Attorney General to investigate all incidents occurring in this State that involve federal immigration enforcement and result in serious bodily injury or death to any party to determine the cause and circumstances of the incident. The Attorney General would publicly release all findings and recommendations from the investigation and deliver copies of the findings to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate within seven days of completing an investigation and could redact the names and personally identifying information of any victims and minors mentioned in such findings. The bill would provide \$450,000 to the Department of Justice to implement these requirements. **Introduced by Representatives Greenfield, Morey, Rubin, and Budd and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1063, Ratepayer and Resource Protection Act, would regulate large-scale data centers to protect ratepayers, water resources, and grid reliability; require on-site clean energy generation, cost-based rates, infrastructure cost responsibility, disclosures, and reporting for certain data centers; limit state and local incentives for data centers; and make related changes to public utilities law. **Introduced by Representatives Prather, Johnson-Hostler, Longest, and Helfrich and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1073, Fair Share for Public Schools Act, would impose a 7% income tax on income that exceeds \$1 million, and direct the Secretary of Revenue to distribute collections to the State Public School Fund for allotment by the State Board of Education to local school administrative units on a per pupil basis. **Introduced by Representatives Buansi, Prather, Baker, and R. Pierce and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1074, Prescription Drug Expenses Tax Deduction, would allow an income tax deduction of up to \$5,000 of the total unreimbursed out-of-pocket expenditures for prescribed medications and pharmacy cost-sharing, excluding any amounts covered by tax-favored accounts such as a Flexible Spending Accounts or Health Savings Accounts. **Introduced by Representatives Reeder, Chessser, Campbell, and Paré and referred to the House Health Committee.**

House Bill 1083, Voluntary Portable Benefits Plan Act, would allow any person or entity, whether public or private, including an internet or application-based company, to voluntarily contribute funds to a portable benefit account for an independent contractor. Contributions by a hiring party to any portable benefit account would not be treated as evidence that a worker is an employee of the hiring party under State unemployment insurance, worker's compensation, taxation, or labor laws. A hiring party that contributes funds to a portable benefit plan could deduct as a business expense an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount contributed during the applicable tax year, and an independent contractor could exclude from taxable income an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the amount contributed by a hiring party during the applicable tax year. **Introduced by Representatives Reeder, Chessser, Rhyne, and Schietzelt and referred to the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee.**

House Bill 1084, E-Bike Definitions/Local Safety Regulation, would allow a city or county to regulate the use of electric assisted bicycles. Except as otherwise provided, the operation of an electric assisted bicycle shall be permitted on all roadways, bicycle lanes, and shared-use paths. A

person under the age of 18 operating or riding as a passenger on a Class 3 electric assisted bicycle (can travel over 20 mph) would be required to wear a helmet that meets federal safety standards. The bill would also provide \$100,000 in funding for public awareness and safety educational materials. **Introduced by Representative Helfrich and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

House Bill 1088/Senate Bill 930, Traffic Signal Preemption Software, would appropriate \$2.7 million in nonrecurring funds for traffic signal preemption technology to allow real-time signal changes prioritizing first responder vehicles. **Introduced by Representative K. Brown and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.**

House Bill 1089, Const. Amend. Property Tax Levy Limit, would amend the State Constitution, if approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2026, to limit the increase of property taxes, including some exceptions. **Introduced by Representatives Echevarria, Howard, Setzer, and Paré and referred to the House Finance Committee.**

House Bill 1090, RURAL Care Act, would create a Rural Healthcare Infrastructure Fund and a Rural Healthcare Infrastructure Program to be administered by the NC State Health Coordinating Council. The bill would also direct the NC State Health Coordinating Council to develop a plan for the establishment and administration of the Rural Healthcare Infrastructure Program which would allow the Department of Health and Human Services to provide financial assistance in the form of grants and loans at below market interest rates with structured repayment terms to support the construction, renovation, or modernization of healthcare infrastructure located in rural areas of the State. The bill would also amend the composition and duties of the NC State Health Coordinating Council. **Introduced by Representatives Reeder, Lambeth, Ward, Greene and referred to the House Health Committee and the House Appropriations Committee.**

House Bill 1104, IVC and Public Safety Committee, would require the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Information Technology, and the Administrative Office of the Courts to study and recommend systemic improvements to the involuntary commitment process, as recommended by the House Select Committee on Involuntary Commitment and Public Safety. **Introduced by Representatives Reeder, Blackwell, Miller, and Cotham and referred to the House Judiciary 2 Committee.**

House Bill 1108, Const. Amend./Permitless Carry, is identical to Senate Bill 815, summarized in the April 29, 2026, Legislative Report. **Introduced by Representatives Kidwell, Moss, Adams, and Pike and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1112, NC Workforce Stability & Economic Protection, would require the Office of State Budget and Management, in consultation with the Departments of Commerce and Revenue, to conduct an annual study to quantify the economic impact of federal immigration enforcement operations within the State, including, but not limited to, the following: (1) estimated losses in State and local tax revenue; (2) estimated decreases in gross State product attributable to workforce reductions; and (3) the fiscal impact on State-funded services and infrastructure resulting from business closures or contractions. The bill also would require any employer who receives a Notice of Inspection by a federal immigration agency to conduct an audit of Employment Eligibility Verification forms (Form I-9) or other employee records to provide a written notice to each current employee in the employee's primary language within 72 hours of receiving the notice. The notice would include the name of the federal agency, the date the employer received the notice, and a

general description of the records sought. **Introduced by Representatives Butler, Harrison, Morey, and Cook and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1115, GSC Advance Health Care Planning Documents, would modify the General Statutes regarding health care powers of attorney, advance health care directives and advance instructions for mental health treatment based in part, on proposals in the uniform health-care decisions act and as recommended by the NC General Statutes Commission. **Introduced by Representative David and referred to the House Judiciary I Committee and the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1120, Financial Effectiveness and Transparency Act, would reduce funding for Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship by \$6.75 million and transfer those funds to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, to support the expansion of evidence-based maternal and infant health programs and services administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Healthy Beginnings program, the Safe Sleep NC Initiative, evidence-based home visiting programs such as the Nurse-Family Partnership, and other evidence-based programs selected by the Division. **Introduced by Representatives von Haefen, Butler, and Buansi and referred to the House Rules Committee.**

House Bill 1121, Added Fee for Sexually Oriented Businesses, would impose an entry fee of \$10 for each entry by each customer on every sexually oriented business in the State that holds an alcohol permit and require each sexually oriented business to record daily the number of customers admitted to the business. The fees collected would be provided to the Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Center Fund and used by the North Carolina Council for Women. **Introduced by Representatives Riddell, Cotham, Johnson-Hostler, and Scott and referred to the House Judiciary 1 Committee.**

Senate Bill 839, Price Transparency Act, would ban algorithmic pricing and anti-competitive mergers for food retailers. **Introduced by Senator Bradley and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 847, Tyler's Law. This bill would require apparent suicides to be fully investigated and reviewed before the manner of death is officially determined as suicide. The bill also increases fees for medical examiner investigations and reports. **Introduced by Senator Hise and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 848, Rio's Law. This bill would establish an autism spectrum disorder registration plate and require law enforcement to create minimum educational and training standards for employment and continuing education for criminal justice officers to recognize and appropriately interact with persons with autism spectrum disorder.

The Medical Care Commission (Commission) and the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services (NCOEMS) would adopt rules to require all emergency medical services personnel to receive certified autism and neurodiversity training to be credentialed. **Introduced by Senator Hise and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 852, NC Health Benefits Exchange Implementation, would authorize the Insurance Commissioner to establish and operate a state-run health benefits exchange. **Introduced by Senator Burgin and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 856, Const Amend: Legislative Terms/Compensation, would amend the State Constitution, if approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2026, to:

- set the annual salary for members of the General Assembly in an amount that is equal to the average salary for classroom teachers and set the travel, subsistence, and per diem rates at the rates paid for State employees;
- limit members of the General Assembly to no more than 16 consecutive years in a chamber;
- increase the terms for Senators from two to four years;
- limit the length of regular legislative sessions to 120 calendar days in odd-numbered years and 90 calendar days in even-numbered years; and
- disallow the annual salary and other allowances for members of the General Assembly if the General Assembly has not passed a budget by June 30 of a year for a period beginning July 1 and continuing until a budget is ratified or the term of the Legislature ends, whichever occurs first.

Introduced by Senator Burgin and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

Senate Bill 859, Home Dialysis Accessibility Act, would require health benefit plans to cover hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis in all settings, including home dialysis. The bill would require staff-assisted home dialysis for individuals with disabilities. **Introduced by Senator Burgin and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 864, Safe and Responsible AI in Schools Act, would: (1) require the State Board of Education to update computer science standards to include instruction on artificial intelligence (AI); (2) require education agencies and public school units to adopt policies regarding the use of AI; (3) establish a framework for evaluating AI educational tools for use in public schools; and (3) require the Department of Public Instruction to contract with the Friday Institute to develop educator and administrator training on the use of AI and appropriate funds for that purpose. **Introduced by Senator Jones and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 867, Increased Admin Fund for Medicaid, would appropriate \$6.5 million to DHHS to support additional administrative costs incurred by county departments of social services due to federal changes regarding Medicaid eligibility. **Introduced by Senator Lowe and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 877, Repeal Service Tax, would amend the statute that imposes a 4.75% privilege tax on retailers by no longer applying the tax to the sales price of or gross receipts derived from (1) repair, maintenance, and installation services to tangible personal property or digital property; (2) service contracts; and (3) repair, maintenance, and installation services for real property. **Introduced by Senator Smith and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 888, Immigration Data Privacy, would prohibit a State department, agency, or institution from disseminating to any federal, state, or local government entity, law enforcement officer, or law enforcement agency any immigration-related data for any purposes related to civil immigration enforcement unless one of the following is satisfied: (1) the subject of the information provides consent, or (2) the requesting agency presents a lawful judicial order, judicial subpoena, or judicial warrant. When responding to a lawful judicial order, judicial subpoena, or judicial warrant, the department would disclose only those records or information specifically requested. Within three business days of receiving a request for information, the department would send a notification to the individual about whom such information was requested, that a request was made

and the identity of the entity that made the request. **Introduced by Senators Murdock and Theodros and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 889, Property Tax Reappraisal Moratorium, effective only for the taxable year beginning July 1, 2026, would prohibit every county in which a reappraisal of real property became effective as of January 1, 2026 (the “2026 Reappraisal”), from using the schedule of values adopted by the board of county commissioners in accordance with the 2026 Reappraisal. The bill would allow taxpayers to appeal the listing or appraisal of real property during the 2027 calendar year for an appraisal of real property that became effective as of January 1, 2026. **Introduced by Senators Berger, Jackson, and Jarvis and referred to the Senate Finance Committee. The bill was approved by the Senate Finance Committee and will next be considered by the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 890, Keep Immigrant Talent in NC, would create a retention fund for immigrants who have high-skilled talents, including healthcare. **Introduced by Senator Murdock and Chitlik and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 891, Small Business Investment Grant, would provide \$250 million to the Department of Commerce to establish a COVID-19 Small Business Recovery Program to provide a one-time grant to small businesses that experienced economic disruption because of the COVID-19 pandemic. A qualifying business would be defined as an entity (i) subject to State income tax, (ii) with annual receipts, when combined with the annual receipts of all related persons, for the 2019 tax year of \$8 million or less, and (iii) a reduction of at least 25% in sales tax collections resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic for the 2020 tax year when compared to collections for the 2019 tax year. **Introduced by Senators Smith, Murdock, and Robinson and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 895, Nonprofit Hospitals Tax Exemption, would modify the property tax and sales tax exemptions afforded to nonprofit hospitals. The bill provides that the exemption allowed a hospital would be limited to the total actual cost of qualified charity care provided by the hospital on the specific tax parcel for which the exemption is claimed. **Introduced by Senators Burgin and Mayfield and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 897, NC CROWN Act, would prohibit a person, firm, corporation, unincorporated association, State agency, local government, or any public or private entity from denying or refusing employment to any person or discharging any person from employment on account of the person's race, color, creed, religion, sex, or national origin. The bill would define *protective hairstyles* as including, but not limited to, such hairstyles as bantu knots, braids, locks, and twists; and *race* as including traits historically associated with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture, hair type, and protective hairstyles. The bill would provide \$100,000 to the Department of Labor to educate employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities. **Introduced by Senators Murdock, Smith, and Salvador and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 900, Small Business Investment Grant, is identical to Senate Bill 891, summarized above in this Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Smith and Murdock and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 908, The Janell Green Smith Maternal Health Acc. Act, would expand licensure of midwives to those without licensing as a nurse and create a NC council of certified professional

midwives. The bill also provides that a health benefit plan must reimburse these services at the same rate as a perinatal health care provider. **Introduced by Senators Murdock, Salvador, Waddell and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee. The NC College of Emergency Physicians is opposed to this legislation.**

Senate Bill 909, The BUMP Act, would direct DHHS to provide free educational information and training on stillbirth prevention and appropriate \$200,000 in recurring funds to launch a statewide “count the kicks” program. **Introduced by Senators Murdock, Salvador, Chitlik and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 913, Screen Free Schools, would:

- add “smart watches” to list of wireless communication devices;
- prohibit students from using wireless communication devices at any time on school premises (K-8th grade) or at any point during the school day for 9th-12th grade (was, during instructional time);
- allow an exception for use required by Statewide Testing Program for 9th and 12th grade;
- remove the provision that allowed student use of wireless communication devices with teacher authorization for educational purposes or in an emergency; and
- provide \$100,000 to the Department of Public Instruction to support implementation of these provisions.

Introduced by Senator Burgin and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Senate Bill 917, MELT Act: Support Immigrant Legal Defense, would prohibit an officer, agent, or employee of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from taking a person into custody, searching a person, searching property, entering a residence, or otherwise conducting an immigration enforcement action within the territorial jurisdiction of North Carolina unless the officer is acting pursuant to a valid judicial warrant issued by a federal or State court based on probable cause. The bill would provide funding for community-based immigration legal services of \$1 million each to the Carolina Migrant Network, Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc. for the Immigration Pathways for Victims project, and North Carolina Justice Center for the Immigrant & Refugee Rights project. **Introduced by Senators Theodros, Mohammed, and Chitlik and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 937, Marijuana and Vapor Products Reform, would decriminalize possession of five grams or less of marijuana; conform the state definition of hemp with the federal definition and prohibit certain THC and cannabis products; increase the penalties for manufacturing and selling marijuana; raise the age to purchase tobacco, vapor, and consumable products; increase the excise tax on vapor products; increase the unauthorized substance excise tax on marijuana; expand alcohol law enforcement’s subject matter jurisdiction; make an appropriation for evidence storage and disposal by ALE; and make administrative and enforcement changes to the vapor products directory. **Introduced by Senator Burgin and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 941, Exempt Treasurer from DHHS Review, provides that DHHS shall exempt from review any new institutional health services established, developed, or acquired by any entity working in partnership or conjunction with the Department of State Treasurer (The State Health Plan is overseen by the State Treasurer). **Introduced by Senator Burgin and referred to the Senate Appropriations Committee.**

Senate Bill 943, Kids Over Corporations Act, would repeal the scheduled phaseout of the corporate income tax and set the corporate income tax rate at five percent. **Introduced by Senators Chitlik, Murdock, and Smith and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

Senate Bill 1016, Fair Share for Public Schools Act, is identical to House Bill 1073, summarized above in this Legislative Report. **Introduced by Senators Chitlik and Garrett and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.**

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