GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA **SESSION 2003**

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SENATE BILL 1225* **Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 7/12/04** Third Edition Engrossed 7/14/04

	Short Title: 2004 Technical Correcti	(Public)					
	Sponsors:						
	Referred to:						
	May 20, 2004						
1 2 3 4 5	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION, AND TO MAKE VARIOUS OTHER CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES AND SESSION LAWS.						
6	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:						
7 8 9	PART I. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION						
10 11	SECTION 1. G.S. 62-3 rea	ads as rewritten:					
12	"§ 62-3. Definitions.						
13	As used in this Chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the term:						
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15 16	(23) a. "Public utility	" means a person, whether or	eganized under the				
17	•	State or under the laws of a	_				
18	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	or hereafter owning or opera	ating in this State				
19	equipment or						
20		ing, generating, transmitting					
21 22		ing electricity, piped gas, steam for the production of light, he	•				
23		public for compensation; provi	_				
24		m "public utility" shall not inc					
25		ict or operate an electric gene	-				
26 27	_ ·	y purpose of which facility is se and not for the primary pur	•				
<i>41</i>	OWII us	se and not for the primary pur	pose of producing				

- electricity, heat, or steam for sale to or for the public for compensation;
- 2. Diverting, developing, pumping, impounding, distributing or furnishing water to or for the public for compensation, or operating a public sewerage system for compensation; provided, however, that the term "public utility" shall not include any person or company whose sole operation consists of selling water to less than 15 residential customers, except that any person or company which constructs a water system in a subdivision with plans for 15 or more lots and which holds itself out by contracts or other means at the time of said construction to serve an area containing more than 15 residential building lots shall be a public utility at the time of such planning or holding out to serve such 15 or more building lots, without regard to the number of actual customers connected:
- 3. Transporting persons or household goods by street, suburban or interurban bus for the public for compensation;
- 4. Transporting persons or household goods by motor vehicles or any other form of transportation for the public for compensation, except motor carriers exempted in G.S. 62-260, carriers by rail, and carriers by air;
- 5. Transporting or conveying gas, crude oil or other fluid substance by pipeline for the public for compensation;
- 6. Conveying or transmitting messages or communications by telephone or telegraph, or any other means of transmission, where such service is offered to the public for compensation.
- b. The term "public utility" shall for rate-making purposes include any person producing, generating or furnishing any of the foregoing services to another person for distribution to or for the public for compensation.
- c. The term "public utility" shall include all persons affiliated through stock ownership with a public utility doing business in this State as parent corporation or subsidiary corporation as defined in G.S. 55-2 to such an extent that the Commission shall find that such affiliation has an effect on the rates or service of such public utility.
- d. The term "public utility," except as otherwise expressly provided in this Chapter, shall not include a municipality, an authority organized under the North Carolina Water and Sewer Authorities Act, electric or telephone membership corporation;

 or any person not otherwise a public utility who furnishes such service or commodity only to himself, his employees or tenants when such service or commodity is not resold to or used by others; provided, however, that any person other than a nonprofit organization serving only its members, who distributes or provides utility service to his employees or tenants by individual meters or by other coin-operated devices with a charge for metered or coin-operated utility service shall be a public utility within the definition and meaning of this Chapter with respect to the regulation of rates and provisions of service rendered through such meter or coin-operated device imposing such separate metered utility charge. If any person conducting a public utility shall also conduct any enterprise not a public utility, such enterprise is not subject to the provisions of this Chapter. A water or sewer system owned by a homeowners' association that provides water or sewer service only to members or leaseholds of members is not subject to the provisions of this Chapter.

- e. The term "public utility" shall include the University of North Carolina insofar as said University supplies telephone service, electricity or water to the public for compensation from the University Enterprises defined in G.S. 116-41.1(9).
- f. The term "public utility" shall include the Town of Pineville insofar as said town supplies telephone services to the public for compensation. The territory to be served by the Town of Pineville in furnishing telephone services, subject to the Public Utilities Act, shall include the town limits as they exist on May 8, 1973, and shall also include the area proposed to be annexed under the town's ordinance adopted May 3, 1971, until January 1, 1975.
- g. The term "public utility" shall not include a hotel, motel, time share or condominium complex operated primarily to serve transient occupants, which imposes charges to occupants for local, long-distance, or wide area telecommunication services when such calls are completed through the use of facilities provided by a public utility, and provided further that the local services received are rated in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 62-110(d) and the applicable charges for telephone calls are prominently displayed in each area where occupant rooms are located.
- h. The term "public utility" shall not include the resale of electricity by (i) a campground operated primarily to serve transient occupants, or (ii) a marina; provided that (i) the campground or marina charges no more than the actual cost of

the electricity supplied to it, (ii) the amount of electricity used 1 2 by each campsite or marina slip occupant is measured by an 3 individual metering device, (iii) the applicable rates are prominently displayed at or near each campsite or marina slip, 4 5 and (iv) the campground or marina only resells electricity to 6 campsite or marina slip occupants. The term "public utility" shall not include the State, the Office 7 i. 8 of the State Controller, Information Technology Services, or the 9 Microelectronics Center of North Carolina in the provision or 10 sharing of switched broadband telecommunications services with non-State entities or organizations of the kind or type set 11 12 forth in G.S. 143B-426.39. 13 j. The term "public utility" shall not include any person, not 14 otherwise a public utility, conveying or transmitting messages 15 or communications by mobile radio communications service. Mobile radio communications service includes one-way or 16 17 two-way radio service provided to mobile or fixed stations or 18 receivers using mobile radio service frequencies. The term "public utility" shall not include a regional natural gas 19 k. 20 district organized and operated pursuant to Article 28 of 21 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes.

SECTION 2. G.S. 111-52 reads as rewritten:

"§ 111-52. Profits from Highway Vending Fund.

Profits generated by highway vending locations as of June 30, 1992, and deposited in a special fund in accordance with the Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual policies of the Office of the State Controller shall be reserved for the construction and maintenance of highway vending facility projects."

SECTION 3. G.S. 113-307.1(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The State of North Carolina hereby assents to the provisions of the act of Congress entitled "An act to provide that the United States shall aid the states in wildlife restoration projects, and for other purposes," approved September 2, 1937 (Public Law 415, 75th Congress), and the Wildlife Resources Commission is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to perform such acts as may be necessary to the conduct and establishment of cooperative wildlife restoration projects, as defined in said act of Congress, in compliance with said act and rules and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture the Interior thereunder; and no funds accruing to the State of North Carolina from license fees paid by hunters shall be diverted for any other purpose than the protection and propagation of game and wildlife in North Carolina and administration of the laws enacted for such purposes, which laws are and shall be administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission."

SECTION 4. G.S. 115C-102.5(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) The Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Community Colleges, and the Office of the State Controller Information Technology Services shall

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provide requested professional and clerical staff to the Commission. The Commission may also employ professional and clerical staff and may hire outside consultants to assist it in its work. The Commission shall use an outside consultant to perform a requirements analysis for learning and instructional management technologies on a statewide basis that is based on information gathered from each local school administrative unit and that considers the needs of teachers, students, and administrators."

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PART II. OTHER CHANGES

SECTION 5.(a) G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5(d), reads as rewritten:

"(d) Filing. – All pleadings subsequent to the complaint shall be filed with the court. All other papers required to be served upon a party, including requests for admissions, shall be filed with the court either before service or within five days thereafter, except that <u>subpoenas</u>, <u>objections</u> to <u>subpoenas</u> under Rule 45(c)(3), depositions, interrogatories, requests for documents, and answers and responses to those requests may not be filed unless ordered by the court or until used in the proceeding. Briefs and memoranda provided to the court may not be filed with the clerk of the court unless ordered by the court. The party taking a deposition or obtaining material through discovery is responsible for its preservation and delivery to the court if needed or so ordered. With respect to all pleadings and other papers as to which service and return has not been made in the manner provided in Rule 4, proof of service shall be made by filing with the court a certificate either by the attorney or the party that the paper was served in the manner prescribed by this rule, or a certificate of acceptance of service by the attorney or the party to be served. Such certificate shall show the date and method of service or the date of acceptance of service."

SECTION 5.(b) This section becomes effective October 1, 2004, and applies to all pending cases and all cases filed on or after that date.

SECTION 6. G.S. 10A-16(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) This section applies to notarial acts performed on or before March 1, 2003. February 1, 2004."

SECTION 7. G.S. 14-33(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Any person who, in the course of an assault, assault and battery, or affray, inflicts serious injury upon another person, or uses a deadly weapon, in violation of subdivision (c)(1) of this section, on a person with whom the person has a personal relationship, and in the presence of a minor, is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor. A person convicted under this subsection, who is sentenced to a community punishment, shall be placed on supervised probation in addition to any other punishment imposed by the court.

A person committing a second or subsequent violation of this subsection shall be sentenced to an active punishment of no less than 30 days in addition to any other punishment imposed by the court.

The following definitions apply to this subsection:

(1) "Personal relationship" is as defined in G.S. 50B-1(b).

1	(2)	"In the presence of a minor" means that the minor was in a position to				
2	(2)	have observed the assault.				
3	(3)	"Minor" is any person under the age of 18 years who is residing with				
4		or is under the care and supervision of, and who has a personal				
5		relationship with, the person assaulted or the person committing the				
6	CEC	assault."				
7		TION 8. G.S. 18B-103 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:				
8	(11)	The delivery, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages under				
9		the direct supervision of an instructor during a class that is part of an				
10		established curriculum at an accredited college or university, including				
11		delivery to or possession or consumption by a student who is less than				
12	21 years of age, when the student is required to taste or imbibe the					
13		alcoholic beverage during a class conducted pursuant to the				
14	CEC	curriculum."				
15		TION 9. G.S. 18B-1006(m)(2) reads as rewritten:				
16	"(2)	The Commission may issue permits listed in G.S. 18B-1001(1), (3),				
17		(5), and (10) to qualified establishments defined in G.S. 18B-1000(4),				
18		(6), and (8) and may issue permits listed in G.S. 18B-1001(2) and (4)				
19		to qualified establishments defined in G.S. 18B-1000(3) in any county				
20		that qualifies for issuance of permits pursuant to				
21		G.S. 18B-1006(k)(5).G.S. 18B-1006(k). These permits may be issued				
22		without approval at an election and shall be issued only to qualified				
23		establishments that meet any all of the following requirements:				
24		a. Located within one mile of any interstate highway interchange				
25		in that county.county;				
26		b. Located within one mile of an establishment issued a permit				
27		under G.S. 18B-1006(k)(5).G.S. 18B-1006(k); and				
28		c. <u>Is, or is located within, one-quarter mile of a hotel with 70 or</u>				
29	CEC	more rooms."				
30		TION 10. G.S. 19A-24(1) reads as rewritten:				
31	-	wers of Board of Agriculture.				
32		of Agriculture may:				
33	(1)	Establish standards for the care of animals at animal shelters, boarding				
34		kennels, pet shops, and public auctions. A boarding kennel which				
35		offers dog day care services, and has a ratio of dogs to employees or				
36		supervisors, or both employees and supervisors, of not more than 10 to				
37		one, shall not as to such services be subject to any regulations which				
38		restrict the number of dogs that are permitted within any primary				
39	"	enclosure.				
40	• • • •	TION 11 (a) C C 20 16 1(b) made as maximized.				
41		TION 11.(a) G.S. 20-16.1(b) reads as rewritten:				
42	"(b)	Unon conviction of each offence cutaids the invisdiction of this State				
43	(3)	Upon conviction of such offense outside the jurisdiction of this State				
44		the person so convicted may apply to the resident judge of the superior				

court a district court judge of the district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) in which he resides for limited driving privileges hereinbefore defined. Upon such application the judge shall have the authority to issue such limited driving privileges in the same manner as if he were the trial judge.

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"**SECTION 11.(b)** G.S. 97-10.2(j) reads as rewritten:

"(j) Notwithstanding any other subsection in this section, in the event that a judgment is obtained by the employee in an action against a third party, or in the event that a settlement has been agreed upon by the employee and the third party, either party may apply to the resident superior court judge of the county in which the cause of action arose, arose or where the injured employee resides or the resides, or to a presiding judge before whom the cause of action is pending, of either district, to determine the subrogation amount. After notice to the employer and the insurance carrier, after an opportunity to be heard by all interested parties, and with or without the consent of the employer, the judge shall determine, in his discretion, the amount, if any, of the employer's lien, whether based on accrued or prospective workers' compensation benefits, and the amount of cost of the third-party litigation to be shared between the employee and employer. The judge shall consider the anticipated amount of prospective compensation the employer or workers' compensation carrier is likely to pay to the employee in the future, the net recovery to plaintiff, the likelihood of the plaintiff prevailing at trial or on appeal, the need for finality in the litigation, and any other factors the court deems just and reasonable, in determining the appropriate amount of the employer's lien. If the matter is pending in the federal district court such determination may be made by a federal district court judge of that division."

SECTION 12. G.S. 20-179.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-179.4. Community service alternative punishment; responsibilities of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety; Correction; fee.

- (a) The Department of Crime Control and Public Safety Correction shall conduct a community service alternative punishment program for persons sentenced under G.S. 20-179(i), (j) or (k).
- (b) The Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety Correction shall assign at least one coordinator to each district court district as defined in G.S. 7A-133 to assure and report to the court the person's compliance with the community service sentence. The appointment of each coordinator shall be made in consultation with the chief district court judge in the district to which the coordinator is assigned. Each county must provide office space in the courthouse or other convenient place, necessary equipment, and secretarial service for the use of each coordinator assigned to that county.
- (c) A fee of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) shall be paid by all persons serving a community service sentence. That fee shall be paid to the clerk of court in the county in which the person is convicted. The fee shall be paid in full within two weeks unless the court, upon a showing of hardship by the person, allows additional time to pay the fee. The person may not be required to pay the fee before beginning the community service unless the court specifically orders the person to do so.

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- (d) Fees collected under this section shall be deposited in the general fund.
- (e) The coordinator shall report to the court in which the community service was ordered a significant violation of the terms of the probation judgment related to community service. The court shall then conduct a hearing to determine if there is a willful failure to comply. If the court determines there is a willful failure to pay the prescribed fee or to complete the work as ordered by the coordinator within the applicable time limits, the court shall revoke any limited driving privilege issued in the impaired driving case until the community service requirement has been met and in addition may take any further action authorized by Article 82 of General Statutes Chapter 15A for violation of a condition of probation."

SECTION 13. G.S. 47-2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 47-2. Officials of the United States, foreign countries, and sister states.

The execution of all such instruments and writings as are permitted or required by law to be registered may be proved or acknowledged before any one of the following officials of the United States, of the District of Columbia, of the several states and territories of the United States, of countries under the dominion of the United States and of foreign countries: Any judge of a court of record, any clerk of a court of record, any notary public, any commissioner of deeds, any commissioner of oaths, any mayor or chief magistrate of an incorporated town or city, any ambassador, minister, consul, vice-consul, consul general, vice-consul general, associate consul, or any other person authorized by federal law to acknowledge documents as consular officers, or commercial agent of the United States, any justice of the peace of any state or territory of the United States, any officer of the army or air force of the United States or United States marine corps having the rank of warrant officer or higher, any officer of the United States navy or coast guard having the rank of warrant officer, or higher, or any officer of the United States merchant marine having the rank of warrant officer, or higher. No official seal shall be required of said military, naval or merchant marine official, but he shall sign his name, designate his rank, and give the name of his ship or military organization and the date, and for the purpose of certifying said acknowledgment, he shall use a form in substance as follows:

On this the	day of	,, before me	, the u	ndersigned
officer, personally appear	eared	, known to me (or	satisfactorily pro	ven) to be
accompanying or servir	ng in or with th	ne armed forces of the	United States (o	r to be the
spouse of a person acco	ompanying or s	serving in or with the	armed forces of	the United
States) and to be the p	erson whose n	ame is subscribed to	the within instru	ments and
acknowledged that	he	executed the sa	me for the purpo	ses therein
contained. And the un	dersigned doe	es further certify that	he is at the da	ate of this
certificate a commission	ned officer of th	he rank stated below a	nd is in the active	e service of
the armed forces of the	United States.			

Signature of Officer

Rank of Officer and command to which attached.

If the proof or acknowledgment of the execution of an instrument is had before a justice of the peace of any state of the United States other than this State or of any territory of the United States, the certificate of such justice of the peace shall be accompanied by a certificate of the clerk of some court of record of the county in which such justice of the peace resides, which certificate of the clerk shall be under his hand and official seal, to the effect that such justice of the peace was at the time the certificate of such justice bears date an acting justice of the peace of such county and state or territory and that the genuine signature of such justice of the peace is set to such certificate."

SECTION 14. Article 4 of Chapter 47 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

"§ 47-50.1. Register's certificate omitted.

In all cases prior to October 1, 2004, where it appears from the records of the office of the register of deeds of any county in this State that the execution of a deed of conveyance or other instrument by law required or authorized to be registered was duly signed and acknowledged as required by the laws of this State, and the register of deeds has failed to certify the correctness of the acknowledgment as required by G.S. 47-14(a), the registerations are hereby validated and the instrument so appearing in the office of the register of deeds of that county is effective to the same extent as if the register of deeds had properly certified the correctness of the acknowledgment."

SECTION 15. G.S. 47-53.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 47-53.1. Acknowledgment omitting seal of <u>clerk or</u> notary public.

Where any person has taken an acknowledgment as <u>either</u> a notary public <u>or a clerk</u> of a superior court, deputy clerk of a superior court, or assistant clerk of a superior court and has failed to affix his <u>or her</u> seal and <u>such-this</u> acknowledgment has been otherwise duly probated and recorded then <u>such-this</u> acknowledgment is hereby declared to be sufficient and <u>valid</u>: <u>Provided this shall apply valid</u>. <u>This section applies</u> only to those deeds and other instruments acknowledged prior to January 1, 1991."

SECTION 16. G.S. 55B-2(6) reads as rewritten:

"§ 55B-2. Definitions.

As used in this Chapter, the following words shall, unless the context requires otherwise, have the following meanings:

. . .

(6) The term "professional service" means any type of personal or professional service of the public which requires as a condition precedent to the rendering of such service the obtaining of a license from a licensing board as herein defined, and pursuant to the following provisions of the General Statutes: Chapter 83A, "Architects"; Chapter 84, "Attorneys-at-Law"; Chapter 93, "Public Accountants"; and the following Articles in Chapter 90: Article 1, "Practice of Medicine," Article 2, "Dentistry," Article 6, "Optometry," Article 7, "Osteopathy," Article 8, "Chiropractic," Article 9A, "Nursing Practice Act," with regard to registered nurses, Article 11, "Veterinarians," Article 12A, "Podiatrists," Article 18A, "Practicing Psychologists," Article 18C,

"Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure," Article 18D, "Occupational Therapy," and Article 22, "Licensure Act for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists," and Article 24, "Licensed Professional Counselors"; Chapter 89C, "Engineering and Land Surveying"; Chapter 89A, "Landscape Architects"; Chapter 90B, "Social Worker Certification and Licensure Act" with regard to Certified [Licensed] Clinical Social Workers as defined by G.S. 90B-3; Chapter 89E, "Geologists"; Chapter 89B, "Foresters"; and Chapter 89F, "North Carolina Soil Scientist Licensing Act"."

SECTION 17.(a) G.S. 58-2-150 reads as rewritten:

"§ 58-2-150. Oath required for compliance with law.

Before issuing license to any insurance company to transact the business of insurance in this State, the Commissioner shall require, in every case, in addition to the other requirements provided for by law, that the company file with him the affidavit of its president or other chief officer that it has not violated any of the provisions of Articles 1 through 64 of this Chapter for the space of 12 months last past, and that it accepts the terms and obligations of Articles 1 through 64 of this Chapter as a part of the consideration of the license."

SECTION 17.(b) G.S. 58-10-20(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) This Part does not apply to:

(4) Any Except as provided in G.S. 58-10-45, any insurer subject to a judicial order of liquidation or rehabilitation.

. . . . '

SECTION 17.(c) G.S. 58-21-65(b)(4) is repealed.

SECTION 17.(d) G.S. 58-22-20 reads as rewritten:

"§ 58-22-20. Risk retention groups not chartered in this State.

Risk retention groups that have been chartered in states other than this State and that seek to do business as risk retention groups in this state must observe and abide by the laws of this State as follows:

(4) Compliance With Unfair Claims Settlement Practices Law. – A risk retention group and its agents and representatives shall comply with G.S. 58-3-100(5) G.S. 58-3-100(a)(5) and G.S. 58-63-15(11).

. . . . ''

SECTION 17.(e) G.S. 58-33-82(e) reads as rewritten:

- "(e) Commissions, fees, or other valuable consideration for the sale, solicitation, or negotiation of insurance may be assigned or directed to be paid in the following circumstances:
 - (1) To a business entity by a person who is an owner, shareholder, member, partner, director, employee, or agent of that business entity.
 - (2) To a producer in connection with renewals of insurance business originally sold by or through the licensed person or for other deferred commissions.

(3) In connection with the indirect receipt of commissions in circumstances in which a license is not required under G.S. 58-33-26(m).G.S. 58-33-26(n)."

SECTION 17.(f) G.S. 58-36-90(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) Indemnification. – An insurer shall indemnify, defend, and hold agents harmless from and against all liability, fees, and costs arising out of or relating to the actions, errors, or omissions of an agent who obtains or uses credit information or insurance credit scores for an insurer, provided the agent follows the instructions or procedures established by the insurer and complies with any applicable law or regulation. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to provide a consumer or other insured with a cause of action that does not exist in the absence of this subsection."

SECTION 17.(g) G.S. 58-36-90(f) reads as rewritten:

"(f) Filing. – Insurers that use <u>insurance credit</u> scores to underwrite and rate risks shall file their scoring models, or other scoring processes, with the Department. A filing that includes <u>insurance credit</u> scoring may include loss experience justifying the applicable surcharge or credit. A filer may request that its credit score data be considered a trade secret and may designate parts of its filings accordingly."

SECTION 17.(h) G.S. 97-165(10) reads as rewritten:

"§ 97-165. Definitions.

As used in this Article:

(10) "Self-insurer" means a single an employer who retains liability under the Act and is licensed under this Article."

SECTION 18. G.S. 58-3-33(a) reads as rewritten:

- "(a) A person who claims to have been physically injured or to have incurred property damage where such injury or damage is subject to a policy of nonfleet private passenger automobile insurance may request by certified mail directed to the insurance adjuster or to the insurance company (Attention Corporate Secretary) at its last known principal place of business that the insurance company provide information regarding the policy's limits of coverage under the applicable policy. Upon receipt of such a request, which shall include the policyholder's name, and, if available, policy number, the insurance company shall notify that person within 15 business days, on a form developed by the Department, that the insurer is required to provide this information prior to litigation only if the person seeking the information satisfies all of the following conditions:
 - (1) The person seeking the information submits to the insurer the person's written consent to <u>all of</u> the person's <u>physicians medical providers</u> to release to the insurer the person's medical records for the three years prior to the date on which the claim arose. arose, as well as all medical records pertaining to the claimed injury.

SECTION 19.(a) G.S. 58-85-1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 58-85-1. Application of fund.

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The money paid into the hands of the treasurer of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association shall be known and remain as the "Firemen's Relief Fund" of North Carolina, and shall be used as a fund for the relief of firemen, firemen and county fire marshals, who are members of such-this Association, who may be injured or rendered sick by disease contracted in the actual discharge of duty as firemen, firemen or county fire marshals, and for the relief of widows, children, and if there be no widow or children, then dependent mothers of such the firemen and county fire marshals killed or dying from disease so contracted in such the discharge of duty; to be paid in such the manner and in such the sums to such the individuals of the classes herein named and described as may be provided for and determined upon in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of said the Association, and such any provisions and determinations made pursuant to said under the constitution and bylaws shall be final and conclusive as to the persons entitled to benefits and as to the amount of benefit to be received, and no action at law shall be maintained against said the Association to enforce any claim or recover any benefit under this Article or under the constitution and bylaws of said the Association; but if any officer or committee of said the Association omit or refuse to perform any duty imposed upon him or them, nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any proceedings against said that officer or committee to compel him or them to perform such that duty. No fireman or county fire marshal shall be entitled to receive any benefits under this section until the firemen's relief fund of his city or town shall have has been exhausted. Notwithstanding the above provisions, the Executive Board of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association is hereby authorized to grant educational scholarships to members and the children of members, to subsidize premium payments of members over 65 years of age to the Firemen's Fraternal Insurance Fund of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, and to provide accidental death and dismemberment insurance for members of those fire departments not eligible for benefits pursuant to standards of certification adopted by the State Firemen's Association for the use of local relief funds."

SECTION 19.(b) G.S. 58-85-15 reads as rewritten:

"§ 58-85-15. Who shall participate in the fund.

The line of duty entitling one to participate in the fund shall be so construed as to mean actual fire duty only, and any actual duty connected with the fire department or county fire marshal office when directed to perform the same by an officer in charge."

SECTION 19.(c) G.S. 58-85-20 reads as rewritten:

"§ 58-85-20. Who may become members.

Any organized fire company in North Carolina, holding itself ready for duty, may, upon compliance with the requirements of said-its constitution and bylaws, become a member of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, and any fireman of good moral character in North Carolina, and belonging to an organized fire company, who will comply complies with the requirements of the constitution and bylaws of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association, may become a member of said-the Association. Any county fire marshal office may, upon compliance with the requirements of its constitution and bylaws, become a member of the North Carolina Firemen's Association, and any employee of a county fire marshal office of good moral character

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whose sole duty is to act as a fire marshal, deputy fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, or firefighter of the county, who complies with the requirements of its constitution and bylaws, may become a member of the North Carolina Firemen's Association."

SECTION 19.(d) G.S. 58-85-25 reads as rewritten:

"§ 58-85-25. Applied to members of regular fire company.

The provisions of G.S. 58-85-1, 58-85-10, 58-85-15, 58-85-20, and 58-85-25 shall apply to any fireman or fire marshal who is a member of a regularly organized fire company, company or county fire marshal office, and is a member in good standing of the North Carolina State Firemen's Association."

SECTION 20. G.S. 62-82(a) reads as rewritten:

Notice of Application for Certificate for Generating Facility; Hearing; Briefs and Oral Arguments. – Whenever there is filed with the Commission an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of a facility for the generation of electricity under G.S. 62-110.1, the Commission shall require the applicant to publish a notice thereof once a week for four successive weeks in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the county where such facility is proposed to be constructed and thereafter the Commission upon complaint shall, or upon its own initiative may, upon reasonable notice, enter upon a hearing to determine whether such certificate shall be awarded. Any such hearing must be commenced by the Commission not later than three months after the filing of such application, and the procedure for rendering decisions therein shall be given priority over all other cases on the Commission's calendar of hearings and decisions, except rate proceedings referred to in G.S. 62-81. Such applications shall be heard as provided in G.S. 62-60.1, and the Commission shall furnish a transcript of evidence and testimony submitted by the end of the second business day after the taking of each day of testimony. The Commission or panel shall require that briefs and oral arguments in such cases be submitted within 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing, and the Commission or panel shall render its decision in such cases within 60 days after submission of such briefs and arguments. If the Commission or panel does not, upon its own initiative, order a hearing and does not receive a complaint within 10 days after the last day of publication of the notice, the Commission or panel shall enter an order awarding the certificate. Notwithstanding this section, applicants for a certificate for solar photovoltaic facilities of 10 kilowatts or less are exempt from the requirement to publish public notice in newspapers."

SECTION 21. G.S. 66-27.1(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) No individual, firm, corporation or business shall install, sell or offer for sale any automatic hot water tank or heater of 120-gallon capacity or less less, except for a tankless water heater, which does not have installed thereon by the manufacturer of such the tank or heater an American Society of Mechanical Engineers and National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors approved type pressure-temperature relief valve set at or below the safe working pressure of the tank as indicated, and so labeled by the manufacturer's identification stamped or cast upon the tank or heater or upon a plate secured to it."

SECTION 22.(a) G.S. 90-171.21(d) reads as rewritten:

- Qualifications. Of the eight registered nurse members on the Board, one 1 2 shall be a nurse administrator employed by a hospital or a hospital system, who shall be 3 accountable for the administration of nursing services and not directly involved in 4 patient care; one shall be an individual who meets the requirements to practice as a 5 certified registered nurse anesthetist, a certified nurse midwife, a clinical nurse 6 specialist, or a nurse practitioner; two shall be staff nurses, defined as individuals who are primarily involved in direct patient care regardless of practice setting; one shall be 7 8 an at-large registered nurse who meets the requirements of sub-subdivisions (1)a., a1., 9 and b. of this subsection, but is not currently an educator in a program leading to 10 licensure or any other degree-granting program; and three shall be nurse educators. Minimum ongoing employment requirements for every registered nurse and licensed 11 12 practical nurse shall include continuous employment equal to or greater than fifty percent (50%) of a full-time position that meets the criteria for the specified Board 13 14 member position. Of the three nurse educators, one shall be a practical nurse educator, 15 one shall be an associate degree or diploma nurse educator, and one shall be a baccalaureate or higher degree nurse educator. All nurse educators shall meet the 16 17 minimum education requirement as established by the Board's education program 18 standards for nurse faculty. Candidates eligible for election to the Board as nurse educators are not eligible for election as the at-large member. 19 20 (1) 21 meet the following criteria: Hold a current, unencumbered license to practice as a registered 22 a. nurse in North Carolina. 23 Be a resident of North Carolina. 24 a1. 25 b. Have a minimum of five years of experience as a registered 26
 - Except for the at-large member, every registered nurse member shall

 - nurse.
 - Have been engaged continuously in a position that meets the c. criteria for the specified Board position for at least three years immediately preceding election.
 - Show evidence that the employer of the registered nurse is d. aware that the nurse intends to serve on the Board.
 - Every licensed practical nurse member shall meet the following (2) criteria:
 - Hold a current, unencumbered license to practice as a licensed a. practical nurse in North Carolina.
 - Be a resident of North Carolina. a1.
 - Have a minimum of five years of experience as a licensed c. practical nurse.
 - Have been engaged continuously in the position of a licensed d. practical nurse for at least three years immediately preceding election.
 - Show evidence that the employer of the licensed practical nurse e. is aware that the nurse intends to serve on the Board.

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- - (3) A public member shall not be a provider of health services, employed in the health services field, or hold a vested interest at any level in the provision of health services as defined by the North Carolina Board of Ethics. No public member or person in the public member's immediate family as defined by G.S. 90-405(8) shall be currently employed as a licensed nurse or been previously employed as a licensed nurse.
 - (4) The nurse practitioner, nurse anesthetist, nurse midwife, or clinical nurse specialist member shall be recognized by the Board as a registered nurse who meets the following criteria:
 - a. Has graduated from or completed a graduate level advanced practice nursing education program accredited by a national accrediting body.
 - b. Maintains current certification or recertification from a national credentialing body approved by the Board or meets other requirements established by rules adopted by the Board.
 - c. Practices in a manner consistent with rules adopted by the Board and other applicable law."

SECTION 22.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to members elected to the Board on or after January 1, 2005.

SECTION 23. G.S. 114-19.50, Article VI. Establishment of Compact Council., subsection (b)(3), reads as rewritten:

"(b) The council must be composed of 15 members, each of whom must be appointed by the Attorney General, as follows:

. . .

- (3) Two at-large members, nominated by the chair of the council once the chair is elected pursuant to subsection (c)(3)subsection (c) of this Article VI, each of whom shall serve a three-year term, of whom:
 - a. One must be a representative of state or local criminal justice agencies; and
 - b. One must be a representative of state or local noncriminal justice agencies;

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SECTION 24.(a) G.S. 115C-522(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) It shall be the duty of local boards of education to purchase or exchange all supplies, equipment, and materials, and these purchases shall be made in accordance with Article 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. These purchases may be made from contracts made by the Department of Administration. Title to instructional supplies, office supplies, fuel and janitorial supplies, enumerated in the current expense fund budget and purchased out of State funds, shall be taken in the name of the local board of education which shall be responsible for the custody and replacement: Provided, that no contracts shall be made by any local school administrative unit for purchases unless provision has been made in the budget of the unit to pay for the purchases, unless surplus funds are on hand to pay for the purchases, or unless the contracts are made pursuant to G.S. 115C-47(28) and G.S. 115C-528 and adequate

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funds are available to pay in the current fiscal year the sums obligated for the current fiscal year. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules regarding equipment standards for supplies, equipment, and materials related to student transportation. The State Board may adopt guidelines for any commodity that needs safety features. If a commodity that needs safety features is available on statewide term contract, any guidelines adopted by the State Board must at a minimum meet the safety standards of the statewide term contract. Compliance with Article 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is not mandatory for the purchase of published books, manuscripts, maps, pamphlets, and periodicals.

- (1) Where competition is available, local school administrative units may utilize the:
 - a. E-Quote service of the NC E-Procurement system as one means of solicitation in seeking informal bids for purchases subject to the bidding requirements of G.S. 143-131; and
 - b. Division of Purchase and Contract's electronic Interactive Purchasing System as one means of advertising formal bids on purchases subject to the bidding requirements of G.S. 143-129 and applicable rules regarding advertising. This sub-subdivision does not prohibit a local school administrative unit from using other methods of advertising.
- (2) In order to provide an efficient transition of purchasing procedures, the Secretary of the Department of Administration and the local school administrative units shall establish a local school administrative unit purchasing user group. The user group shall be comprised of a proportionate number of representatives from the Department of Administration and local school administrative unit purchasing and finance officers. The user group shall examine any issues that may arise between the Department of Administration and local school administrative units, including the new relationship between the Department and the local school administrative units, the appropriate information, continued exchange of the efficient E-Procurement, appropriate bid procedures, and any other technical assistance that may be necessary for the purchase of supplies and materials."

SECTION 24.(b) This section becomes effective April 1, 2004. **SECTION 25.(a)** G.S. 115C-549 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-549. Standardized testing requirements.

Each private church school or school of religious charter shall administer, at least once in each school year, a nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized equivalent measurement selected by the chief administrative officer of such school, to all students enrolled or regularly attending grades three, six and nine. The nationally standardized test or other equivalent measurement selected must measure achievement in the areas of English grammar, reading, spelling and mathematics. Each school shall make and maintain records of the results achieved by its students. For one year after the

 testing, all records shall be made available, subject to the provision of G.S. 115C-196, G.S. 115C-174.13, at the principal office of such school, at all reasonable times, for annual inspection by a duly authorized representative of the State of North Carolina."

SECTION 25.(b) G.S. 115C-550 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-550. High school competency testing.

To assure that all high school graduates possess those minimum skills and that knowledge thought necessary to function in society, each private church school or school of religious charter shall administer at least once in each school year, a nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized equivalent measure selected by the chief administrative officer of such school, to all students enrolled and regularly attending the eleventh grade. The nationally standardized test or other equivalent measurement selected must measure competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas. Each private church school or school of religious charter shall establish a minimum score which must be attained by a student on the selected test in order to be graduated from high school. For one year after the testing, all records shall be made available, subject to the provision of G.S. 115C-196, G.S. 115C-174.13, at the principal office of such school, at all reasonable times, for annual inspection by a duly authorized representative of the State of North Carolina."

SECTION 25.(c) G.S. 115C-557 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-557. Standardized testing requirements.

Each qualified nonpublic school shall administer, at least once in each school year, a nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized equivalent measurement selected by the chief administrative officer of such school, to all students enrolled or regularly attending grades three, six and nine. The nationally standardized test or other equivalent measurement selected must measure achievement in the areas of English grammar, reading, spelling and mathematics. Each school shall make and maintain records of the results achieved by its students. For one year after the testing, all records shall be made available, subject to the provision of G.S. 115C 196, G.S. 115C-174.13, at the principal office of such school, at all reasonable times, for annual inspection by a duly authorized representative of the State of North Carolina."

SECTION 25.(d) G.S. 115C-558 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-558. High school competency testing.

To assure that all high school graduates possess those minimum skills and that knowledge thought necessary to function in society, each qualified nonpublic school shall administer at least once in each school year, a nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized equivalent measure selected by the chief administrative officer of such school, to all students enrolled and regularly attending the eleventh grade. The nationally standardized test or other equivalent measurement selected must measure competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas. Each qualified nonpublic school shall establish a minimum score which must be attained by a student on the selected test in order to be graduated from high school. For one year after the testing, all records shall be made available, subject to the provision of G.S. 115C-196, G.S. 115C-174.13, at the principal office of such school, at all reasonable times, for annual inspection by a duly authorized representative of the State of North Carolina."

SECTION 26.(a) G.S. 120-85 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-85. Definitions.

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 As used in this Article:

- (1) "Business with which he is—associated" means any enterprise, incorporated or otherwise, doing business in the State of which the legislator—the person or any member of his—the person's immediate household is a director, officer, owner, partner, employee, or of which the legislator—person and his—the person's immediate household, either singularly or collectively, is a holder of securities worth five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or more at fair market value as of December 31 of the preceding year, or constituting five percent (5%) or more of the outstanding stock of such—the enterprise.
- (1a) "Economic interest" includes matters involving a business with which the person is associated or a nonprofit corporation or organization with which the person is associated.
- (2) "Immediate household" means the <u>legislator</u>, <u>his person</u>, the <u>person's</u> spouse, and all <u>of the person's</u> dependent children of the legislator. children.
- (2a) "Nonprofit corporation or organization with which associated" means any public or private enterprise, incorporated or otherwise, that is organized or operating in the State primarily for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, public health and safety, or educational purposes and of which the person or any member of the person's immediate household is a director, officer, governing board member, employee or independent contractor as of December 31 of the preceding year.
- (3) "Vested trust" as set forth in G.S. 120-96(4) means any trust, annuity or other funds held by a trustee or other third party for the benefit of the member person or a member of his the person's immediate household."

SECTION 26.(b) G.S. 120-87 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-87. Disclosure of confidential information.

- (a) No legislator shall use or disclose <u>in any way</u> confidential information gained in the course of <u>the legislator's official activities</u> or by reason of <u>his-the legislator's</u> official position or activities in any way that could result in financial gain for himself, for: (i) the legislator; (ii) a business with which <u>he-the legislator</u> is associated or associated; (iii) a nonprofit corporation or organization with which the legislator is associated; (iv) a member of <u>his-the legislator's immediate household household;</u> or (v) any other person.
- (b) As used in this section, "confidential information" means information defined as confidential by statute."

SECTION 26.(c) G.S. 120-96 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-96. Contents of statement.

- Any statement of economic interest filed under this Article shall be on a form 1 2 prescribed by the Committee, and the person filing the statement shall supply all of the 3 following information: 4 The identity, by name, of any business all businesses, nonprofit (1) 5 corporations or organizations with which he, or any member of his 6 immediate household, is associated; the person is associated. 7 The character and location of all real estate of a fair market value in (2) 8 excess of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), other than his the 9 person's personal residence (curtilage), in the State in which he, the 10 person, or a member of his-the person's immediate household, has any beneficial interest, including an option to buy and a lease for 10 years 11 12 or over; more. 13 (3) The type of each creditor to whom he, the person, or a member of his the person's immediate household, owes money, more than five 14 15 thousand dollars (\$5,000), except indebtedness secured by lien upon his the person's personal residence only, in excess of five thousand 16 17 dollars (\$5,000); only. The name of each "vested trust" in which he the person or a member of 18 (4) his the person 's immediate household has a financial interest in excess 19 20 of more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the nature of such 21 interest; the interest. The name and nature of his the person and his the person's immediate 22 (5) 23 household member's respective business or profession or employer and 24 the types of customers and types of clientele served; served. A list of businesses with which he—the person is associated that do 25 (6) business with the State, and a brief description of the nature of such 26 27 business; and the business. A list of nonprofit corporations or organizations with which the person 28 (6a) 29 is associated and which receive State funds, and a brief description of 30 the nature of the programs receiving funds. In the case of professional persons and associations, a person who 31 (7) 32 practices a profession, whether individually or as a member of a professional association, a list of classifications of business clients 33 clients, by the type of business, whom the person or the person's firm 34 or partnership has which classes were charged or who have paid to the 35 person or the person's firm or partnership two thousand five hundred 36 dollars (\$2,500) or more for professional services rendered during the 37 38 previous calendar vear for professional services rendered by him, his
 - (b) All information provided in the statement of economic interest shall be current as of the last day of December of the year preceding the signature date."

firm or partnership. year. This list need not include the name of the

client but shall list the type of the business of each such client or class

of client, and brief description of the nature of the services rendered.

SECTION 26.(d) G.S. 120-99 reads as rewritten:

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"§ 120-99. Creation; composition.

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- (a) The Legislative Ethics Committee is created to consist of ten members, five Senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, among them two from a list of four submitted by the Majority Leader and two from a list of four submitted by the Minority Leader, and five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, among them two from a list of four submitted by the Majority Leader and two from a list of four submitted by the Minority Leader.
- (b) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House <u>as the appointing officers</u> shall each designate a cochair of the Legislative Ethics Committee from the respective officer's appointees. The cochair appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall preside over the Legislative Ethics Committee during the odd-numbered year, and the cochair appointed by the Speaker of the House shall preside in the even-numbered year. However, a cochair may preside at anytime during the absence of the presiding cochair or upon the presiding cochair's designation. In the event a cochair is unable to act as cochair on a specific matter before the Legislative Ethics Committee, and so indicates in writing to the appointing officer and the Legislative Ethics Committee, the respective officer shall designate from that officer's appointees a member to serve as cochair for that specific matter.
- (c) The provisions of G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.8 shall apply to the proceedings of the Legislative Ethics Committee as if it were a joint committee of the General Assembly, except that both cochairs shall sign all subpoenas on behalf of the Committee."

SECTION 26.(e) G.S. 120-100 reads as rewritten: "§ **120-100.** Term of office; vacancies.

- (a) Appointments to the Legislative Ethics Committee shall be made immediately after the convening of the regular session of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years, and appointees shall serve until the expiration of their then-current terms as members of the General Assembly.
- (b) A vacancy occurring for any reason during a term shall be filled for the unexpired term by the authority making the appointment which caused the vacancy, and the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall, if possible, be a member of the same political party as the member who caused the vacancy.
- (c) In the event a member of the Legislative Ethics Committee is unable to act on a specific matter before the Legislative Ethics Committee, and so indicates in writing to the appointing officer and the Legislative Ethics Committee, the appointing officer may appoint another member of the respective chamber from a list submitted by the majority leader or minority leader who nominated the member who is unable to act on the matter to serve as a member of the Legislative Ethics Committee for the specific matter only. If on any specific matter, the number of members of the Legislative Ethics Committee who are unable to act on a specific matter exceeds four members, the appropriate appointing officer shall appoint other members of the General Assembly to serve as members of the Legislative Ethics Committee for that specific matter only."
- **SECTION 26.(f)** Subsections (a), (b) and (c) of this section are effective January 1, 2006, and apply to candidates running for office on or after that date, to

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persons appointed to fill vacancies for the 2007 and subsequent General Assemblies, 1 2 and to presiding officers of the 2007 and subsequent General Assemblies. 3 remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law. 4

SECTION 26.5. G.S. 122C-22(a) reads as rewritten:

"§ 122C-22. Exclusions from licensure; deemed status.

- The following are excluded from the provisions of this Article and are not required to obtain licensure under this Article:
 - (1) Physicians and psychologists engaged in private office practice;
 - (2) General hospitals licensed under Article 5 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes, that operate special units for the mentally ill, developmentally disabled, or substance abusers;
 - (3) State and federally operated facilities:
 - Adult care homes licensed under Chapter 131D of the General (4) Statutes:
 - (5) Developmental child care centers licensed under Article 7 of Chapter 110 of the General Statutes:
 - (6) Persons subject to licensure under rules of the Social Services Commission:
 - (7) Persons subject to rules and regulations of the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services:
 - (8) Facilities that provide occasional respite care for not more than two individuals at a time; provided that the primary purpose of the facility is other than as defined in G.S. 122C-3(14);
 - (9) Twenty-four-hour nonprofit facilities established for the purposes of shelter care and recovery from alcohol or other drug addiction through a 12-step, self-help, peer role modeling, and self-governance approach; and
 - Inpatient chemical dependency or substance abuse facilities that (10)provide services exclusively to inmates of the Department of Correction, as described in G.S. 148-19.1. G.S. 148-19.1; and
 - A charitable, non-profit, faith-based, adult residential treatment facility (11)that does not receive any federal or State funding and is part of an international organization serving at least 50 countries that helps persons ages 18-40 overcome life controlling problems and is a religious organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code."

SECTION 27.(a) G.S. 135-1(25) reads as rewritten:

"(25) "Teacher" shall mean any teacher, helping teacher, classroom-teacher in a job-sharing position as defined in G.S. 115C-302.2(b) under G.S. 115C-326.5 except for a beneficiary in that position, librarian, principal, supervisor, superintendent of public schools or any full-time employee, city or county, superintendent of public instruction, or any full-time employee of Department of Public Instruction, president, dean or teacher, or any full-time employee in any educational

institution supported by and under the control of the State: Provided, 1 2 that the term "teacher" shall not include any part-time, temporary, or substitute teacher or employee except for a classroom-teacher in a 3 job-sharing position, and shall not include those participating in an 4 5 optional retirement program provided for in G.S. 135-5.1 or 6 G.S. 135-5.4. In all cases of doubt, the Board of Trustees, hereinbefore 7 defined, shall determine whether any person is a teacher as defined in 8 this Chapter. On and after August 1, 2001, a person who is a 9 nonimmigrant alien and who otherwise meets the requirements of this 10 subdivision shall not be excluded from the definition of "teacher" solely because the person holds a temporary or time-limited visa. 11 12 Notwithstanding the foregoing, the term "teacher" shall not include any nonimmigrant alien employed in elementary or secondary public 13 14 schools (whether employed in a full-time, part-time, temporary, 15 permanent, or substitute teacher position) and participating in an 16 exchange visitor program designated by the United States Department 17 of State pursuant to 22 C.F.R. Part 62."

SECTION 27.(b) G.S. 135-40.2(a2) reads as rewritten:

"(a2) A school employee in a job-sharing position as defined in G.S. 115C-302.2(b) G.S. 115C-326.5(b) shall be eligible for coverage under the Plan, on a partially contributory basis, subject to the provisions of G.S. 135-40.3. If these employees elect to participate in the Plan, the employing unit shall pay fifty percent (50%) of the Plan's total noncontributory premiums. Individual employees shall pay the balance of the total noncontributory premiums not paid by the employing unit."

SECTION 28. G.S. 143-34.1(d) reads as rewritten:

Notwithstanding any other provisions of law relating to the salaries of officers and employees of departments, institutions, and agencies of State government, the Director of the Budget is authorized to provide a plan of flexible compensation to eligible officers and employees of State departments, institutions, and agencies not covered by the provisions of G.S. 116-17.2 for benefits available under Section 125 and related sections of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended. This plan shall not include those replace, substitute for, or duplicate any benefits provided to employees and officers under Article 1A of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes and Articles 1, 3, 4, and 6 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes nor any vacation leave, sick leave, or any other leave that may be carried forward from year to year by employees as a form of deferred compensation. Statutes. The plan may, however, include offerings for products and benefits that are supplemental or additional to these statutory benefits. In providing a plan of flexible compensation, the Director of the Budget may authorize State departments, institutions, and agencies to enter into agreements with their employees for reductions in the salaries of employees electing to participate in the plan of flexible compensation provided by this section. With the approval of the Director of the Budget, savings in the employer's share of contributions under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act on account of the reduction in salary may be used to pay some or all of the administrative expenses of the program. Should the Director of the Budget decide

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to contract with a third party to administer the terms and conditions of a plan of flexible compensation as provided by this section, it may select such a contractor only upon a thorough and completely advertised competitive procurement process."

SECTION 29.(a) Part 3 of Article 3A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is repealed.

SECTION 29.(b) G.S. 143-129.8(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Contracts for information technology may be entered into under a request for proposals procedure that satisfies the following minimum requirements:

- (1) Notice of the request for proposals shall be given in accordance with G.S. 143-129(a)G.S. 143-129(b).
- (2) Contracts shall be awarded to the person or entity that submits the best overall proposal as determined by the awarding authority. Factors to be considered in awarding contracts shall be identified in the request for proposals."

SECTION 30.(a) Article 9 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

"§ 143-143.5. Access to toilets in shopping malls.

Notwithstanding any other law or rule, a horizontal travel distance of 300 feet for access to public use toilets in shopping malls shall be allowed."

SECTION 30.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to shopping malls for which building permits are issued on or before July 1, 2005. This section expires July 1, 2005.

SECTION 31.(a) G.S. 157-9 is amended by adding the following new subsection to read:

"(d) A housing authority shall not erect or maintain around any lawfully occupied housing units any fence or gate structure that is electrified or that includes spikes or barbed wire."

SECTION 31.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to existing fences and gates.

SECTION 32.(a) G.S. 160A-361 reads as rewritten:

"§ 160A-361. Planning agency.boards.

- (a) Any city may by ordinance create or designate one or more <u>agencies boards</u> <u>or commissions</u> to perform the following duties:
 - (1) Make studies of the area within its jurisdiction and surrounding areas;
 - (2) Determine objectives to be sought in the development of the study area;
 - (3) Prepare and adopt plans for achieving these objectives;
 - (4) Develop and recommend policies, ordinances, administrative procedures, and other means for carrying out plans in a coordinated and efficient manner;
 - (5) Advise the council concerning the use and amendment of means for carrying out plans;
 - (6) Exercise any functions in the administration and enforcement of various means for carrying out plans that the council may direct;

- (7) Perform any other related duties that the council may direct.
- (b) An agency A board or commission created or designated pursuant to this section may include, but shall not be limited to, one or more of the following:
- (1) A planning board or commission of any size (with not fewer than three members) or composition deemed appropriate, organized in any manner deemed appropriate;
- (2) A joint planning board created by two or more local governments pursuant to Article 20, Part 1, of this Chapter."

SECTION 32.(b) G.S. 160A-363 reads as rewritten:

"§ 160A-363. Supplemental powers.

A city or its designated planning agency board may accept, receive, and disburse in furtherance of its functions any funds, grants, and services made available by the federal government and its agencies, the State government and its agencies, any local government and its agencies, and any private and civic sources. Any city, or its designated planning agency board with the concurrence of the council, may enter into and carry out contracts with the State and federal governments or any agencies thereof under which financial or other planning assistance is made available to the city and may agree to and comply with any reasonable conditions that are imposed upon such assistance.

Any city, or its designated planning agency board with the concurrence of the council, may enter into and carry out contracts with any other city, county, or regional council or planning agency under which it agrees to furnish technical planning assistance to the other local government or planning agency. Any city, or its designated planning agency board with the concurrence of its council, may enter into and carry out contracts with any other city, county, or regional council or planning agency under which it agrees to pay the other local government or planning agency board for technical planning assistance.

Any city council is authorized to make any appropriations that may be necessary to carry out any activities or contracts authorized by this Article or to support, and compensate members of, any planning agency board that it may create pursuant to this Article, and to levy taxes for these purposes as a necessary expense."

SECTION 32.(c) G.S. 153A-321 reads as rewritten:

"§ 153A-321. Planning agency.boards.

A county may by ordinance create or designate one or more agencies boards or commissions to perform the following duties:

- (1) Make studies of the county and surrounding areas;
- (2) Determine objectives to be sought in the development of the study area;
- (3) Prepare and adopt plans for achieving these objectives;
- (4) Develop and recommend policies, ordinances, administrative procedures, and other means for carrying out plans in a coordinated and efficient manner;
- (5) Advise the board of commissioners concerning the use and amendment of means for carrying out plans;

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- Exercise any functions in the administration and enforcement of (6) various means for carrying out plans that the board of commissioners may direct;
- Perform any other related duties that the board of commissioners may (7)

An agency A board or commission created or designated pursuant to this section may include but shall not be limited to one or more of the following:

- (1) A planning board or commission of any size (with not fewer than three members) or composition considered appropriate, organized in any manner considered appropriate;
- A joint planning board created by two or more local governments (2) according to the procedures and provisions of Chapter 160A, Article 20, Part 1."

SECTION 32.(d) G.S. 153A-322 reads as rewritten:

"§ 153A-322. Supplemental powers.

A county or its designated planning agency board may accept, receive, and disburse in furtherance of its functions funds, grants, and services made available by the federal government or its agencies, the State government or its agencies, any local government or its agencies, and private or civic sources. A county, or its designated planning agency board with the concurrence of the board of commissioners, may enter into and carry out contracts with the State or federal governments or any agencies of either under which financial or other planning assistance is made available to the county and may agree to and comply with any reasonable conditions that are imposed upon the assistance.

A county, or its designated planning agency board with the concurrence of the board of commissioners, may enter into and carry out contracts with any other county, city, regional council, or planning agency under which it agrees to furnish technical planning assistance to the other local government or planning agency. A county, or its designated planning agency board with the concurrence of the board of commissioners, may enter into and carry out contracts with any other county, city, regional council, or planning agency board under which it agrees to pay the other local government or planning agency board for technical planning assistance.

A county may make any appropriations that may be necessary to carry out an activity or contract authorized by this Article, by Chapter 157A, or by Chapter 160A, Article 19 or to support, and compensate members of, any planning agency that it may create or designate pursuant to this Article."

SECTION 32.(e) G.S. 160A-392 reads as rewritten:

Part applicable to buildings constructed by State and its "§ 160A-392. subdivisions; exception.

All of the provisions of this Part are hereby made applicable to the erection, construction, and use of buildings and land by the State of North Carolina and its political subdivisions.

Notwithstanding the provisions of any general or local law or ordinance, no land owned by the State of North Carolina may be included within an overlay district or a

special use or conditional use district without approval of the Council of State. State or its designate."

SECTION 32.(f) This section becomes effective October 1, 2004.

SECTION 33. The introductory language of subsection (b) of Section 2 of S.L.1997-41, as amended by S.L. 1998-19, S.L. 2001-318, S.L. 2003-55, and S.L. 2003-260 is rewritten to read:

"(b) The Board of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, Inc., shall consist of 20 members, appointed as follows:"

SECTION 34.(a) The lead-in language of Section 1 of S.L. 2003-392 is rewritten to read:

"**SECTION 1.** G.S. 153A-225 is amended by adding the following new subsection to read:"

SECTION 34.(b) This section becomes effective August 7, 2003.

SECTION 35. If House Bill 142, 2003 Regular Session, becomes law, then Section 2.1 of that act reads as rewritten:

"SECTION 2.1. Privilege tax. – Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 153A-152, the Dare County Board of Commissioners may levy a privilege tax of up to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per rental unitestablishment on each business engaged in the furnishing of any room, lodging, or accommodation within the county the rental of which is subject to sales tax imposed by the State under G.S. 105-164.4(a)(3). This tax does not apply to nonprofit charitable, educational, or religious organizations that furnish accommodations in furtherance of their nonprofit purpose. For the purposes of this act, "establishment" has the same meaning as in G.S. 105-129.2."

SECTION 36. If House Bill 1414, 2003 Regular Session, becomes law, then Section 7.22(a) of House Bill 1414 reads as rewritten:

"HIGH SCHOOL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

SECTION 7.22.(a) Funds are appropriated in this act for a high school workforce development program. The purpose of the program shall be to identify students who may not plan to attend or be adequately prepared to attend a two- or four-year degree program and to provide the assistance those students need to earn an Associate Degree the year after their senior year in high school. The Department of Public Instruction shall work closely with the Education Cabinet and the New Schools Project in administering the program.

These funds shall be used to establish five pilot projects in which a local school administrative unit, two- and four-year colleges and universities, and local employers work together to ensure that high school and community college curricula operate seamlessly and meet the needs of participating employers. Notwithstanding any other law or rule, a local school administrative unit and two- and four-year colleges and universities shall agree upon the minimum age of the students who participate in the pilot projects."

SECTION 37. If Section 8.17 of House Bill 1414, 2003 Regular Session, becomes law, then a new subsection is added to read:

"**SECTION 8.17.(c)** No request for proposals need be issued for any contract under subdivision (a)(2) of this section."

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SECTION 38. If Senate Bill 582, 2003 Regular Session, becomes law, G.S. 130A-475(b), as enacted by that law, reads as rewritten:

"(b) The authority under subsection (a) of this section shall be exercised only when and so long as a public health threat may exist, all other reasonable means for correcting the problem have been exhausted, and no less restrictive alternative exists. Before applying the authority under subdivision (4) or (5) of subsection (a) of this section to livestock or poultry for the purpose of preventing the direct or indirect conveyance of a biological, chemical or nuclear agent to persons, the State Health Director shall consult with the State Veterinarian in the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

The period of limited freedom of movement or access under subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection (a) of this section shall not exceed 30 calendar days. Any person substantially affected by that limitation may institute, in superior court in Wake County or in the county in which the limitation is imposed, an action to review the limitation. The State Health Director shall give the persons known by the State Health Director to be substantially affected by the limitation reasonable notice under the circumstances of the right to institute an action to review the limitation. If a person or a person's representative requests a hearing, the hearing shall be held within 72 hours of the filing of the request, excluding Saturdays and Sundays. The person substantially affected by that limitation is entitled to be represented by counsel of the person's own choice or if the person is indigent, the person shall be represented by counsel appointed in accordance with Article 36 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes and the rules adopted by the Office of Indigent Defense Services. The court shall reduce or terminate the limitation unless it determines, by the preponderance of the evidence, that the limitation is reasonably necessary to prevent or limit the conveyance of biological, chemical or nuclear agents to others, and may apply such conditions to the limitation as the court deems reasonable and necessary.

If the State Health Director determines that a 30-calendar-day limitation on freedom of movement or access is not adequate to protect the public health, the State Health Director must institute in superior court in the county in which the limitation is imposed, an action to obtain an order extending the period limiting the freedom of movement or access. If the person substantially affected by the limitation has already instituted an action in superior court in Wake County, the State Health Director must institute the action in superior court in Wake County or as a counterclaim in the pending case. The court shall continue the limitation for a period not to exceed 30 days, subject to conditions it deems reasonable and necessary, if it determines by the preponderance of the evidence, that additional limitation is reasonably necessary to prevent or limit the conveyance of biological, chemical, or nuclear agents to others. The court order shall specify the period of time the limitation is to be continued and shall provide for automatic termination of the order upon written determination by the State Health Director or local health director that the quarantine or isolation limitation on freedom of movement or access is no longer necessary to protect the public health. In addition, where the petitioner can prove by a preponderance of the evidence that quarantine or isolation the limitation on freedom of movement or access was not or is no longer

needed for protection of the public health, the person quarantined or isolated so limited may move the trial court to reconsider its order extending quarantine or isolation the limitation on freedom of movement or access before the time for the order otherwise expires and may seek immediate or expedited termination of the order. Before the expiration of an order issued under this section, the State Health Director may move to continue the order for additional periods not to exceed 30 days each."

SECTION 38.1.(a) Section 1 of Chapter 196 of the 1995 Session Laws reads as rewritten:

"Section 1. The provisions of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes relating to the use of the highways of the State and the operation of motor vehicles are applicable to the drives, driveways, roads, roadways, streets, courts, extensions, alleys, and parking lots, by whatever name known, on the properties owned by or under the control of The Colington Harbour Association, Inc., or the Martin's Point Homeowners Association, Inc., and shown on the several plats recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds of Dare County. For purposes of this act, drives, driveways, roads, roadways, streets, courts, extensions, alleys, and parking lots, by whatever name known shall have the same meaning as highways and public vehicular areas pursuant to G.S. 20-4.01. A violation of any of those laws is punishable as prescribed by those laws."

SECTION 38.1.(b) Section 2 of Chapter 196 of the 1995 Session Laws reads as rewritten:

"Sec. 2. This act shall not be construed as in any way interfering with the ownership and control of the drives, driveways, roads, roadways, streets, courts, extensions, alleys, and parking lots, by whatever name known, of The Colington Harbour Association, Inc., or the Martin's Point Homeowners Association, Inc., nor does this require the removal of the private guard gate belonging to the either Association."

SECTION 39. The Department of Transportation shall install highway directional guide signs at the freeway ramp terminals for colleges or universities with a campus located in North Carolina if the campus is within one mile from the freeway ramp terminal, is licensed by the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, offers both undergraduate and graduate degree programs, and has a minimum of 350 students enrolled at the campus. The college or university requesting the sign installment shall pay for all charges related to the construction of the sign.

SECTION 40. This act is effective when it becomes law.