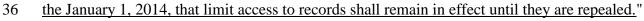
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2013

S

SENATE BILL 331

	Short Title:	Sunshine Amendment.	(Public)	
	Sponsors: Senators Goolsby (Primary Sponsor); a		ary Sponsor); and Meredith.	
	Referred to:	Judiciary I.		
	March 19, 2013			
1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED			
2	AN ACT TO		RNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE BY AMENDING THE	
3	NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION.			
4	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:			
5	SECTION 1. Article XIV of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding			
6	a new section to read:			
7	"Sec. 7. Access to public records and meetings.			
8	(1) Every person has the right to inspect or copy any public record made or received in			
9	connection with the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the State, or			
10	persons acting on their behalf, except with respect to records exempted pursuant to this section.			
11	This section specifically includes the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of			
12	government and each agency or department created thereunder; counties, municipalities,			
13	governmental subdivisions, units of local government and special districts; and every officer,			
14	board, and commission, or entity created pursuant to law or this Constitution.			
15	(2) All meetings of any collegial public body of the executive branch of State			
16	government or of any collegial public body of a county, municipality, governmental			
17	subdivision, unit of local government, or special districts at which official acts are to be taken			
18	or at which public business of such body is to be transacted or discussed, shall be open and			
19	noticed to the public and meetings of either house of the General Assembly shall be open and			
20	public notice given as provided by law, except with respect to meetings exempted pursuant to			
21	this Section.			
22			ing. The General Assembly, however, may provide by	
23			te of the members present and voting of each house for	
24			equirements of subsection (1) of this Section and the	
25			rements of subsection (2) of this Section, provided that	
26	such law shall state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption and shall be			
27	no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the law. The General Assembly			
28	shall enact laws governing the enforcement of this Section, including the maintenance, control,			
29	destruction, disposal, and disposition of records made public by this Section, except that each			
30	house of the General Assembly may adopt rules governing the enforcement of this Section in			
31	relation to records of that house. Laws enacted pursuant to this subsection shall contain only			
32	exemptions from the requirements of subsection (1) or (2) of this Section and provisions			
33	governing the enforcement of this Section and shall relate to one subject.			
34			on January 1, 2014, that limit public access to records or	
35	meetings shall	ll remain in force until a	mended or repealed. Rules of court that are in effect on	





General Assembly of North Carolina

1 SECTION 2. The amendments set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to 2 the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election in November 2014, which 3 election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots, 4 voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163 of the General Statutes. 5 The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be: 6 "[]FOR []AGAINST

- 6 "[] FOR [] AGAINST
 7 Constitutional amendments providing that all State and local government public
 8 records are open to inspection and copying, and all State and local government meetings are
- 8 records are open to inspection and copying, and all State and local government meetings are
 9 open to the public, subject in either case to general law passed by two-thirds vote in each house
 10 of the General Assembly providing for exemptions in case of public necessity."

11 SECTION 3. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the 12 constitutional amendment set out in this act, the State Board of Elections shall certify the 13 amendment to the Secretary of State. The constitutional amendment is effective upon 14 certification. The Secretary of State shall enroll the amendments so certified among the 15 permanent records of that office.