

State Government

See full summary documents for additional detail

H308 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2020.

Sec. 3: Allow the Department of Environmental Quality to Establish Emergency Measures and Procedures Applicable to Solid Waste Management During a State of Emergency Declared by the Governor. (SL 2020-74)

Section 3 of S.L. 2020-74 authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop and implement emergency measures and procedures necessary for the proper management of solid waste generated during a state of emergency declared by the Governor. Such emergency procedures and measures expire no more than 60 days after a declaration of a state of emergency has expired or been rescinded by the Governor, and may include any of the following: (i) restrictions on the collection, storage, and transportation of solid waste; (ii) decisions on facility operational conditions such as operational times and waste acceptance and (iii) any other measures or procedures necessary to allow for the proper disposal of solid waste within impacted communities.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

H308 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2020.

Sec. 9: Extend Right to Work Authorization for State and Local Government Retirees During the COVID-19 Emergency. (SL 2020-74)

Section 9 of S.L. 2020-74 extended the expiration date of a temporary provision concerning the retirement system from August 1, 2020 to August 31, 2020.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

H308 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2020.

Sec. 18: Prevent from Becoming Effective Rules Modifying the North Carolina Building Code. (SL 2020-74)

Section 18 of S.L. 2020-74 prevents certain North Carolina Building Code rules related to the use of certain plastic pipes from becoming effective.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

H308 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2020.

Sec. 19: Library Statute Changes. (SL 2020-74)

Section 19 of S.L. 2020-74 does the following:

- Expands the dean's seat on the Public Librarian Certification Commission to include "department chair, program director, or equivalent."
- Eliminates the requirement for standing committees within the State Library Commission, and instead give the authority to create four-person committees to the Chair of the State Library Commission with the approval of the Library Commission.
- Repeals the requirement that State publications that are of historical or enduring value and importance to the citizens of North Carolina must be printed on alkaline (acid-free) paper.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

H308 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2020.

Sec. 23: Confidentiality Changes for Certain Documents in Securities Investigations. (SL 2020-74)

Section 23 of S.L. 2020-74 exempts from public records requests certain investor financial information obtained during an investigation conducted by the Secretary of State.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

H308 - Regulatory Reform Act of 2020.

Sec. 31: Clarification Regarding Submission of Certain Component Designs or Proposals. (SL 2020-74)

Section 31 of S.L. 2020-74 requires the design or proposal for a component or element in the construction of buildings be completed under valid seal of an architect or engineer only when required by the North Carolina State Building Code.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

H425 - Implement Conner's Law. (SL 2020-86)

S.L. 2020-86 provides \$1,200,000 in nonrecurring funds to implement S.L. 2019-228, otherwise known as "Conner's Law", which provides a new death benefit of \$100,000 for public safety employees murdered in the line of duty. This act became effective July 1, 2020.

H536 - Temp Outdoor Restaurants for Outdoor Seating. (Ratified)

House Bill 536 would have temporarily authorized existing food establishment, private clubs or private bars, wineries, and distilleries to offer and operate outdoor dining and beverage service options, provided specific conditions were met. House Bill 536 was ratified by the General Assembly on May 28, 2020, and was vetoed by the Governor on June 5, 2020.

H686 - Freedom to Celebrate the Fourth of July. (Ratified)

House Bill 686 would have allowed 4th of July parades and regulated firework displays. House Bill 686 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 24, 2020, and vetoed by the Governor on July 2, 2020.

H902 - Purchase and Contracts Changes/Global Transpark/Prison Pilot.

Part I: Purchase and Contracts Changes. (SL 2020-90)

Part I of S.L. 2020-90 implements the expenditure benchmarks established under G.S. 143-53.1 as the monetary thresholds to review protests on contracts and waivers of competition and mandates that reports on emergency purchases by State departments, institutions, and agencies be submitted to the Division of Purchase and Contracts. It provides that the benchmark must not be greater than \$100,000 for State departments, institutions, and agencies, except the President of The University of North Carolina or a special responsibility constituent institution of The University of North Carolina and community colleges.

This part became effective July 2, 2020 and applies to contracts entered into on or after that date.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 1.5: Conflict with Federal Law. (SL 2020-4)

Section 1.5 of S.L. 2020-4 provides that if an allocation made under the act is disallowed by federal law, the disallowed allocation is repealed, and the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) must transfer the amount of the disallowed allocation to the Coronavirus Relief Reserve. If the funds have been allocated to a nonprofit corporation, and the use of funds by the nonprofit corporation is disallowed by federal law, the nonprofit corporation must return the amount of funds allocated to the nonprofit corporation to OSBM to transfer the funds into the Coronavirus Relief Reserve.

This section became effective May 4, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 1.6: General Guidance on Use of Funds. (SL 2020-4)

Section 1.6 of S.L. 2020-4 requires the Office of State Budget Management to work with the recipient State agencies to budget receipts awarded pursuant to COVID-19 Recovery Legislation according to the program needs and within the parameters of the respective granting entities and applicable federal laws and regulations. State agencies are not permitted to use funds received pursuant to COVID-19 Recovery Legislation for recurring purposes and revenue replacement is not a permissible use of funds received pursuant to the CARES Act, P.L. 116-136.

This section became effective May 28, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 1.7: Required Report on Use of Funds. (SL 2020-4)

Section 1.7 of S.L. 2020-4 requires the Office of State Budget Management (OSBM) to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division by March 1, 2021, detailing the use of funds allocated under Section 3.3 of this act. This report from OSBM must include the amount of funds allocated to each State agency, State department, and nonprofit organization; how the funds were used by each State agency, State department, and nonprofit organization; and the amount of funds allocated to each State agency, State department, and nonprofit organization that remained unspent as of December 30, 2020.

Each State agency or department that receives federal grant funds under Section 4.1 of this act must also submit a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division no later than 90 days from the day the grant period ends detailing the use of funds. The report required from each State agency or department that receives federal grant funds under Section 4.1 of this act must include the amount of funds granted, the source of the funds, how the funds were used, and the amount of funds that remained unspent at the end of the grant period.

This section became effective May 28, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 1.8: Audit Coronavirus Relief Fund. (SL 2020-4)

Section 1.8 of S.L. 2020-4 requires the State Auditor to conduct a preliminary financial and a final performance audit of the Coronavirus Relief Fund created by S.L. 2020-4, no later than March 1, 2021.

This section became effective May 4, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 2.1: Establishment of Coronavirus Relief Reserve. (SL 2020-4)

Sec. 2.1 of S.L. 2020-4 directs the State Controller to establish the Coronavirus Relief Reserve (Reserve) in the General Fund to maintain federal funds received under the CARES Act to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in North Carolina. The State Controller must transfer funds from the Reserve to the Coronavirus Relief Fund only as needed to meet the appropriations set out in this act and only at the request of the Director of the Budget.

This section became effective May 4, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 2.2: Establishment of Coronavirus Relief Fund. (SL 2020-4)

Sec. 2.2 of S.L. 2020-4 establishes the Coronavirus Relief Fund (Fund) to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance from the effects of COVID-19. The Fund must be maintained as a special fund and administered by the Office of State Budget and Management. All funds allocated from the Fund must be used for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19. Only expenditures incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020, are eligible for funding from this Fund.

This section became effective May 4, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 3.3(102): Funds for the Council for Women for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault . (SL 2020-4)

Section 3.3 of S.L. 2020-4, as may have been amended by Section 3 of S.L. 2020-32, Section 4 of S.L. 2020-49, Section 1.1(d) of S.L. 2020-80, Section 3B(b) of S.L. 2020-88, and Section 4.9(a) of S.L. 2020-91, is amended by Section 1.2 of S.L. 2020-97 to add a new subdivision (102) that provides a total of \$12 million to the Department of Administration, Council for Women, with \$6 million provided for domestic violence centers and \$6 million for sexual assault programs to mitigate increased incidents as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This subdivision became effective September 4, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.3: Establishment of Temporary Pandemic Recovery Office. (SL 2020-4)

Section 4.3 of S.L. 2020-4 requires the Office of State Budget and Management to establish a temporary North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office to manage funds made available under COVID-19 Recovery Legislation. It clarifies the Pandemic Recovery Office must ensure coordination of federal funds received by State agencies and local governments, and proper reporting and accounting of all funds. This authorization for the Pandemic Recovery Office provided in this section expires 12 months after it became effective.

This section became effective May 4, 2020.

H1043 - 2020 COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.14: Construction PPE and Education. (SL 2020-4)

Section 4.14 of S.L. 2020-4, as enacted by Sec. 1.3 of S.L. 2020-97, sets forth enactments that promote the general welfare, serve the public interest, and further the public purpose of helping to better protect citizens from the coronavirus. This section details how eligible entities can apply for grants and how funds allocated

in subdivision (74) of Sec. 3.3, as enacted by Sec. 1.2 of S.L. 2020-97, to the Office of State Budget and Management must be used to provide grants to CAGC Foundation, Inc., (Foundation) and how the Foundation will award those grants. All contractual and interagency agreements necessary to implement this section must be executed within 30 days of this section becoming law. Further, a grant recipient cannot utilize grant funds to pay for expenses that have been or will be covered under another coronavirus relief program.

This section became effective on September 4, 2020.

H1063 - Fund VIPER Tower Hardware Upgrades. (SL 2020-14)

S.L. 2020-14 allocates \$19,800,530 to the Department of Public Safety to be used for tower hardware upgrades to the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) network.

This act became effective on July 1, 2020.

H1105 - Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0.

Sec. 1.7: Purchasing Supplies and Materials During COVID-19 Pandemic. (SL 2020-97)

Section 1.7 of S.L. 2020-97 allows State departments, institutions, and agencies subject to Article 3 of Chapter 143 to obtain supplies, material, equipment, printing, or services to address the COVID-19 pandemic, including purchases that exceed the benchmark established under G.S. 143-53-1, without the authorization or approval of the Secretary of Administration. A report on COVID-19 expenditures must be made a matter of record promptly after the expenditures have been made. If the expenditure exceeds the benchmark established under G.S. 143-53.1, the report must be made promptly to the Division of Purchase and Contract.

This section applies to contracts entered into on or after September 4, 2020 and expires December 30, 2020.

(Also see summary of Section 13.1 of S.L. 2020-78 pertaining to amendments of the benchmark referenced in Section 1.7 of S.L. 2020-97.)

H1105 - Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0.

Secs. 2.1 - 2.5: Earthquake Disaster Relief. (SL 2020-97)

Secs. 2.1 through 2.5 of S.L. 2020-97 establish the Earthquake Disaster Recovery Reserve (Recovery Reserve), and make various appropriations to provide necessary and appropriate relief and assistance from the effects of the M5.1 earthquake (Alleghany County Earthquake) that occurred on August 9, 2020, in Alleghany County, North Carolina. These sections became effective September 4, 2020.

H1105 - Coronavirus Relief Act 3.0.

Sec. 3.20: Reauthorize State Agency Regulatory Flexibility. (SL 2020-97)

Section 3.20 of S.L. 2020-97 is a reauthorization of regulatory flexibility given to State agencies by Section 4.38 of S.L. 2020-3 for the period of March 10, 2020, through August 1, 2020, in response to the Coronavirus emergency. This section authorizes State agencies to exercise regulatory flexibility to the maximum extent practicable during the Coronavirus emergency in order to protect the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the State, while also continuing to protect public health, safety, and welfare. For purposes of this section, "Coronavirus emergency" covers the time period beginning on August 1, 2020, and provides:

- State agencies, upon a determination that it is in the public interest to do so due to the impacts of the coronavirus, are authorized to:
 - Delay fees and fines collections.
 - Delay renewal dates of permits, licenses, certifications, and authorizations.
 - Delay or modify educational or examination requirements.
- State agencies must report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, and the Office of State Budget and Management on its specific efforts to exercise regulatory flexibility.
- State agencies are authorized to adopt emergency rules for this purpose, without the simultaneous commencement of the temporary rule making process.

H1218 - Salary-Related Contributions/Debt Service Funds. (SL 2020-41)

S.L. 2020-41 reduced the State employer salary-related contributions and appropriated funds to be used to meet the State's General Fund debt service obligations.

This act became effective July 1, 2020.

S105 - Clarify Emergency Powers. (Ratified)

Senate Bill 105 would have clarified that the Governor must seek a concurrence of the Council of State prior to exercising certain authorities under the Emergency Management Act.

Senate Bill 105 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 20, 2020, and was vetoed by the Governor on July 2, 2020.

S212 - Capital Appropriations/R&R/DIT/Cybersecurity. (SL 2020-81)

S.L. 2020-81:

- Appropriates funds for various capital and repair and renovation projects for State agencies and The University of North Carolina, and to the Department of Information Technology for certain purposes.

- Amends various laws that relate to funding, commencing, and administering capital projects from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund.
- Establishes two separate pilot programs and a Satellite-Based Broadband Grant Program within the Department of Information Technology.
- Amends laws that relate to leases for broadband infrastructure on State property.

Section 10 is summarized in a separate document.

This act became effective June 26, 2020, except, sections 1, 2, 3, and 8 of this act which became effective July 1, 2020. Section 8 became effective July 1, 2020 and applied to applications for new leases and lease renewals submitted on or after that date, and expires January 1, 2025.

S315 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2019-20.

Sec. 4: Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission Cochair Holdover. (SL 2020-18)

Section 4 of S.L. 2020-18 provides that a cochair of the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission may continue to serve for so long as the cochair remains a member of the General Assembly and no successor has been appointed. A cochair of the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission who does not seek reelection or is not reelected to the General Assembly would be allowed to complete a term of service on the Commission until the day on which a new General Assembly convenes.

This section became effective June 12, 2020.

S315 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2019-20.

Sec. 12: Prevent Grant Funding Duplication. (SL 2020-18)

Section 12 of S.L. 2020-18 amends existing law to provide that projects that are part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) are ineligible for State Water Resources Development Grant (WRDG) funding if they receive funding from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF), and are ineligible for CWMTF funding if they receive WRDG funding. This section also required the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources no later than September 30, 2020, regarding funding overlaps between water resources development grant funding and CWMTF grants for EQIP funding for the Western Stream Initiative and the efforts of both Departments to improve administration of State grants for that program.

This section became effective June 12, 2020.

S315 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2019-20.

Sec. 13: Improve Performance Management of State Grant Funds. (SL 2020-18)

Section 13 of S.L. 2020-18 directs the Department of Environmental Quality and, as applicable, the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to collect and report to the General Assembly certain grant administration and grant implementation efficiency and effectiveness measures. The report is due annually no later than

November 1 to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division.

This section became effective June 12, 2020.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 12.4: Public Safety Answering Point Funding Changes. (SL 2020-78)

Sec. 12.4 of S.L. 2020-78, does all of the following:

- Authorizes the distribution of 911 Funds to a city or county operating a public safety answering point (PSAP) to pay the costs to comply with an intergovernmental support agreement with a major military installation requiring the city or county and that major military installation to serve as a back-up PSAP or secondary PSAP for each other's 911 system.
- For purposes of the 911 funding formula, it requires the 911 Board to:
- Include the population of a major military installation operating a PSAP in the population count of any PSAP operated by a city or county that is a party to an intergovernmental support agreement with that major military installation.
- Treat an intergovernmental support agreement between a city or county operating a PSAP, and a major military installation operating a PSAP, as an interlocal agreement.

This section became effective July 1, 2020 and applies to distributions for the 2020-2021 fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 12.5: Office of Recovery and Resiliency Temporary Positions Adjustment. (SL 2020-78)

Section 12.5 of S.L. 2020-78 amends Section 5.7(a) of S.L. 2018-136, and allows the Office of Recovery and Resiliency to hire more than 30 new three-year time-limited positions supported by federal grant administrative funding to provide general disaster recovery coordination, citizen outreach, and other services.

This section became effective on July 1, 2020.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 13.1: Procurement Simplification and Increased Accountability. (SL 2020-78)

Section 13.1 of S.L. 2020-78 amends the law on award recommendation for contracts (G.S. 143-52.1) to change the benchmark amount that triggers the State Procurement Officer monthly report. The new benchmark must not be greater than \$100,000 (as provided in G.S. 143-53.1) for State departments, institutions, and agencies, except the President of The University of North Carolina or a special responsibility constituent institution of The University of North Carolina and community colleges. A conforming change is also made to the requirement to adopt rules (G.S. 143-53) and for purchasing in emergencies (G.S. 143-57).

This section became effective July 1, 2020, and applies to contracts entered into on or after that date.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 13.2: Department of Administration/Update E-Procurement System. (SL 2020-78)

Section 13.2 of S.L. 2020-78 requires the Department of Administration to submit a report on replacement of the State's E-Procurement System (System) no later than October 1, 2020, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology. The report must include all of the following:

- Description of the project.
- Interface capability.
- Activities undertaken to date.
- Itemized expenditures to date and itemized costs anticipated.
- Project implementation timeline and milestones completed.
- Compliance with statutory requirements for information technology projects.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 14.1: Plan for Results First Benefit-Cost Analysis of DHHS Programs. (SL 2020-78)

Sec. 14.1 of S.L. 2020-78 requires the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to submit a plan to conduct, as part of North Carolina's Results First project, a benefit-cost analysis of all Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) programs funded by State appropriations. The plan shall include (i) an inventory of all Department programs funded by State appropriations and (ii) an estimate of the cost to conduct the Results First benefit-cost analysis for each DHHS program funded by State appropriations.

OSBM must submit the plan by January 15, 2021 to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

This section is effective July 1, 2020.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 16.1: Industrial Commission Use Electronic Mail to Send Decisions. (SL 2020-78)

Sec. 16.1 of S.L. 2020-78 allows decisions and orders issued by the North Carolina Industrial Commission to be sent by electronic mail.

This section became effective July 1, 2020 and applies to decisions and orders sent on or after that date.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 18.1: Office of State Auditor Reporting. (SL 2020-78)

Section 18.1 of S.L. 2020-78 amends the duties of the State Auditor to provide that the auditor must make findings of fact on whether State agencies are adhering to statutory requirements that include conditions precedent, classifications, and similar eligibility or qualifying standards to assure that statutory intent is carried out. This section provides that the State Auditor is responsible for verification audits for compliance with statutory requirements, with or without advance notice to the organization or State agency being audited, which may be initiated at the discretion of the Auditor or as requested by the Governor or General Assembly. The Auditor may examine accounts and records or organizations or State agencies for verifications audits.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

S681 - Agency Policy Directives/2019-2020.

Sec. 20.1: Report on Use of Lapsed Salaries. (SL 2020-78)

Sec. 20.1 of S.L. 2020-78 requires the Office of State Budget and Management to produce a yearly report on State agency use of lapsed salaries.

This section became effective July 1, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act .

Sec. 4.5: Extend Time Period to Claim Lottery Prizes.. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.5 of S.L. 2020-3 allows a lottery prize winner to submit a delayed claim for a lottery prize that is expiring between March 10, 2020, and August 1, 2020. The claim must be submitted no later than November 1, 2020.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective May 4, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act .

Sec. 4.6: Lottery Commission Report. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.6 of SL 2020-3 requires the NC State Lottery Commission to submit a report on the impact of COVID-19 that contains the elements outlined below.

- The impact on sales of lottery games, including county-level data.
- The impact on revenues.
- The impact on retailers, included changes to the number of retailers.
- The impact on expenses of the lottery.

- The impact on transfers of net revenue under the law (G.S. 18C-64) that defines the net revenues for the NC State Lottery Fund and requires that they be transferred at least four times a year to the Education Lottery Fund.

The report must be submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on the North Carolina State Lottery and the Fiscal Research Division on or before September 1, 2020.

This section became effective May 4, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.21: State Health Plan Premium and Debt Payment Deferral Option During Declaration of Emergency. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.21 of S.L. 2020-3 authorizes the State Treasurer, with approval of the Board of Trustees for the State Health Plan, to give certain members or employing units the option to defer premium or debt payment when there is a state of disaster or emergency. This section was effective retroactively to January 1, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.24: Flexibility to Waive Interest on Procurement. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.24 of S.L. 2020-3 authorizes a State agency to waive any interest due on a past due account receivable. This section does not apply to money owed to the University of North Carolina Health Care System or to East Carolina University's Division of Health Sciences for health care services, to the North Carolina Turnpike Authority for money owed to the Authority for tolls, or to the North Carolina State Health Plan for past due account receivables related to premiums and claims payments. This section became effective May 4, 2020, and expired on August 1, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act .

Sec. 4.25: Provide for the Rescheduling of Public Hearings During Temporary Rule Making. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.25 of S.L. 2020-3 amends a State agency's authority and procedure for adopting a temporary rule by requiring an agency to publish an additional notice, for a proposed temporary rule hearing that has been cancelled, at least five days prior to a new rescheduled hearing date.

This section became effective retroactively to March 10, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act .

Sec. 4.26: Authorize the Chief Administrative Law Judge to Extend the Time Period for the Filing of Contested Cases During Catastrophic Conditions. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.26 of S.L. 2020-3 authorizes the chief administrative law judge by order to extend the time period for the filing of contested cases during catastrophic conditions when the Chief Justice of the North Carolina

Supreme Court determines and declares that catastrophic conditions exist or have existed in one or more counties of the State and issues an order pursuant to G.S. 7A 39(b). The extension must be to a date certain no fewer than 10 days after the effective date of the order, the time or period of limitation, whether established by another statute or this section, for the filing of a petition for a contested case. The order must be in writing and must become effective for each affected county upon the date set forth in the order, and if no date is set forth in the order, then upon the date the order is signed by the chief administrative law judge. The order shall provide that it expires upon the expiration of the Chief Justice's order.

This section became effective retroactively to March 10, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.31: Public Bodies/Remote Meetings During Declared Emergencies. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.31 of S.L. 2020-3, establishes clear authority for public bodies to meet remotely during times of gubernatorial or legislatively declared emergencies, effective May 4, 2020, and applying to any such declaration of emergency in effect on or after that date.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.32: Extend the North Carolina Child Well-Being Transformation Council. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.32 of S.L. 2020-3 amended Section 24.1(i) of S.L. 2018-5 to extend the time for the North Carolina Child Well-Being Transformation Council to submit their final report from June 30, 2020 to August 1, 2020.

This act became law on May 4, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act.

Sec. 4.35: Extend General Statutes Commission Report. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.35 of S.L. 2020-3 changes the reporting date for the General Statutes Commission report and recommendations on the local government ordinances and North Carolina Administrative Code rules that criminalize conduct required by S.L. 2019-198 from May 1, 2020 to March 1, 2021. This section became effective May 4, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act .

Sec. 4.37: Extend the Joint Legislative Study Committee on Small Business Retirement Options. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.37 of S.L. 2020-3 made the committee's March 2020 report an interim report and allowed the Committee to submit a final report by December 1, 2020. This section also changed the date by which the Committee would terminate to August 1, 2020 or when the final report was submitted, whichever occurs first.

This section became effective retroactively to March 31, 2020.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act .

Sec. 4.38: Authorize State Agency Regulatory Flexibility. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.38 of S.L. 2020-3 authorized State agencies to exercise regulatory flexibility to the maximum extent practicable during the Coronavirus emergency in order to protect the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the State, while also continuing to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

- State agencies, upon a determination that it is in the public interest to do so due to the impacts of the coronavirus, were authorized to:
 - Delay fees and fines collections.
 - Delay renewal dates of permits, licenses, certifications, and authorizations.
 - Delay or modify educational or examination requirements.
- State agencies must report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, and the Office of State Budget and Management on its specific efforts to exercise regulatory flexibility.
- State agencies were authorized to adopt emergency rules for this purpose, without the simultaneous commencement of the temporary rule making process.

S704 - COVID-19 Recovery Act .

Sec. 4.43: Joint Legislative Oversight Committees/Extend Reporting Deadlines. (SL 2020-3)

Section 4.43 of S.L. 2020-3 requires reports to be submitted to a joint legislative oversight committee of the General Assembly between March 10, 2020 and July 15, 2020 to be held in abeyance until July 15, 2020 and submitted thereafter. Any report required to be submitted after July 15, 2020 must be submitted as scheduled.

This section became effective on May 2, 2020.

S719 - Retirement Tech./Protect./& Other Changes. (SL 2020-48)

S.L. 2020-48 amends statutes pertaining to the following: Teacher's and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS), the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS), the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System (CJRS), the Legislative Retirement System (LRS), the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan, the Achieving A Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program Trust, the NC National Guard Pension Fund, North Carolina Public School Teachers' and Professional Educators' Investment Plan, local government finance, 403(b) administrative costs, Unfunded Liability Solvency Reserve and Health Benefit Fund, Escheats, Unclaimed Property, and separate insurance benefit plan offerings.

Except as otherwise provided this act became effective June 26, 2020. See the full summary for details.

S720 - GSC Conforming Amendments/2019 Land-Use Changes. (SL 2020-25)

S.L. 2020-25 incorporates amendments by the 2019 session laws to former Article 19 of Chapter 153A and former Article 18 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes into Chapter 160D of the General Statutes. This act became effective on June 19, 2020.