



Josh Stein, Governor

*State of North
Carolina*

GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 437: AN ACT TO ESTABLISH DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONES AND INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT IMPOSED FOR COMMITTING CERTAIN DRUG OFFENSES IN A DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONE AND TO BAN UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC CAMPING OR SLEEPING IN THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF THE STATE.

We all want people experiencing homelessness to get back on their feet and live in safe, affordable housing. Yet, this poorly constructed bill makes that goal harder and creates another significant unfunded mandate for local governments. The bill also fundamentally misunderstands how people suffering from addiction get healthy. If government threatens criminal liability against those who seek treatment and against the people, organizations, and churches trying to help them, government stands in the way of services that promote health and safety, and people's problems are actually made worse. I have long called for funding to crack down on drug trafficking, invest in behavioral health, and expand affordable housing options – because homelessness and substance misuse are real problems that deserve real solutions, not this bill.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Stein", written over a horizontal line.

Josh Stein
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House on this the 8th day of July 2026 at 10:13 AM for reconsideration by that body.

READ
JUL 27 2026
Janice White

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

Date: 7.8.2026

Time: 10:13 AM

Signed: Janice White