

ADOPTED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 257

AMENDMENT NO. **A23**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S257-AMQ-16 [v.18]

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Amends Title [NO]
Fifth Edition

Date _____, 2025

Representative Lambeth

moves to amend the bill on page 56, line 12, by deleting that line and inserting the following language to read:

"the project is located in whole or in part in Buncombe, Watauga, or Wake County and the project is managed";

and on page 58, lines 50-51, by inserting the following language to read:

"PERSONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION

SECTION 5.24.(a) Chapter 55A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 18.

"The Personal Privacy Protection Act.

"§ 55A-18-01. Short title.

This Article may be cited as The Personal Privacy Protection Act.

"§ 55A-18-02. Purpose.

This Article prohibits public agencies from collecting, disclosing, or releasing personal information about members, volunteers, and financial and nonfinancial donors to 501(c) nonprofit organizations, except as permitted by State or federal law or regulation. This Article provides penalties for violation of these privacy protections.

"§ 55A-18-03. Definitions.

In this Article, the following definitions apply:

(1) Nonprofit organization. – An entity that (i) is exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any successor section, (ii) has submitted an application with the Internal Revenue Service for recognition of an exemption under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or any successor section, or (iii) is a not-for-profit business entity recognized under State law.

(2) Person. – As defined in G.S. 12-3.

(3) Personal information. – Any list, record, register, registry, roll, roster, or other compilation of data of any kind that directly or indirectly identifies a person as a member, supporter, volunteer, or donor of financial or nonfinancial support to any nonprofit organization. For the purposes of this Article, the



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- 1 terms "supporter" and "volunteer" shall not include members of the governing
2 board, officers, directors, or staff of a nonprofit organization.
3 (4) Public agency. – Any State or local governmental unit and its employees,
4 however designated, including, but not limited to, this State; any department,
5 agency, office, commission, board, division, or other entity of this State,
6 including all boards, departments, and divisions; any political subdivision of
7 this State, including, but not limited to, a county, city, local school
8 administrative unit, community college, or any other local governmental unit,
9 agency, authority, council, board, or commission; or any State or local court,
10 tribunal, or other judicial or quasi-judicial body.

"§ 55A-18-04. Protections afforded.

11
12 (a) Except as provided in G.S. 55A-18-05 of this Article, a public agency shall not do
13 any of the following:

- 14 (1) Require any person or nonprofit organization to provide the public agency
15 with personal information or otherwise compel the release of personal
16 information.
17 (2) Release, publicize, or otherwise publicly disclose personal information in
18 possession of the public agency.
19 (3) Request or require a current or prospective contractor or grantee with the
20 public agency to provide a list of nonprofit organizations to which the current
21 or prospective contractor or grantee has provided financial or nonfinancial
22 support.

23 (b) Personal information is not a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.

"§ 55A-18-05. Exemptions.

24
25 This Article does not preclude any of the following:

- 26 (1) Reporting or disclosure required by Article 22A of Chapter 163 of the General
27 Statutes.
28 (2) Issuing of a lawful warrant for personal information by a court of competent
29 jurisdiction.
30 (3) Request for discovery of personal information in litigation if both of the
31 following conditions are met:
32 a. The requestor demonstrates a compelling need for the personal
33 information by clear and convincing evidence.
34 b. The requestor obtains a protective order barring disclosure of personal
35 information to any person not named in the litigation.
36 (4) Admission of personal information as relevant evidence before a court of
37 competent jurisdiction. However, no court shall publicly reveal personal
38 information absent a specific finding of good cause.
39 (5) Releasing personal information by a public agency that was voluntarily
40 released to the public by the person or the nonprofit organization to which it
41 relates.
42 (6) Collection of information disclosing the identity of any director, officer,
43 registered agent, or incorporator of a nonprofit organization in any report or

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disclosure required by statute to be filed with the Secretary of State. This Article does not preclude an audit, examination, review, or investigation pursuant to the authority of the Secretary of State under Chapters 10B, 55A, 78A, 78C, 78D, 120C, or 131F of the General Statutes so long as both of the following apply:

a. The personal information is only used in connection with the specific audit, examination, review, or investigation to which the request relates and for any related proceedings.

b. Any personal information collected otherwise remains subject to G.S. 55A-18-04(a)(2), unless expressly required by law to be publicly disclosed.

(7) Disclosure of personal information derived from a donation to a nonprofit organization that is affiliated with a public agency and required by statute, if the person has not previously requested anonymity from the nonprofit organization.

(8) Collection and reporting by a national securities association that is registered pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 78o-3, any regulations adopted under it, or any information that the national securities association is required to provide pursuant to State law.

(9) Requests by the Attorney General for personal information required for an audit, examination, review, or investigation pursuant to Chapters 36C, 36E, 55A, 75, and 131F of the General Statutes. Personal information provided pursuant to this exception shall only be used in connection with the specific audit, examination, review, or investigation to which the request relates and for any related proceedings. Any personal information collected shall otherwise remain subject to the provisions of G.S. 55A-18-04(a)(2), unless expressly required by law to be publicly disclosed.

"§ 55A-18-06. Penalties.

(a) A person alleging a violation of this Article may bring a civil action for appropriate injunctive relief, damages, or both. Damages awarded under this section may include one of the following, as appropriate:

(1) A sum of money not less than two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to compensate for injury or loss caused by each violation of this Article.

(2) For an intentional violation of this Article, a sum of money not to exceed three times the sum described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(b) A court, in rendering a judgment in an action brought under this Article, may award all or a portion of the costs of litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees and witness fees, to the complainant in the action if the court determines that the award is appropriate.

(c) A person who knowingly violates this Article is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

"§ 55A-18-07. Severability.

If any provision of this Article or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, then the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Article that can be given

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1 effect without the invalid provision or application and, to that end, the provisions of this Article
2 shall be severable."

3 **SECTION 5.24.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies
4 to offenses committed on or after that date.

5
6 **"CITIZENS SUPPORT ACT**

7 **SECTION 5.25(a)** Department of Health and Human Services. – The Department of
8 Health and Human Services is directed to do all of the following:

- 9 (1) To the extent permitted by federal law, the Department of Health and Human
10 Services (DHHS) shall take all steps necessary to cease providing
11 State-funded benefits to noncitizens residing in the United States without legal
12 permission.
13 (2) To the extent permitted by federal law, the DHHS shall develop and
14 implement a plan to review and update the eligibility criteria for all
15 State-funded benefits to ensure that noncitizens determined to be residing in
16 the United States without legal permission are ineligible to receive
17 State-funded benefits. As a part of this plan, the DHHS shall develop a method
18 for verifying the immigration status of applicants for State-funded benefits
19 who are noncitizens prior to the initiation of benefits.
20 (3) By January 15, 2026, the DHHS shall report to the Joint Legislative Oversight
21 Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division
22 all of the following:
23 a. The steps taken to implement Section 1 of this act and the resulting
24 success of those steps.
25 b. A list of State-funded benefits for which the DHHS is prohibited from
26 changing.
27 c. The plan developed and implemented pursuant to Section 2 of this act,
28 which shall include a citation to each federal law or regulation that
29 prohibits the DHHS from denying eligibility for State-funded benefits
30 to noncitizens determined to be residing in the United States without
31 legal permission.

32 **SECTION 5.25.(b)** State-funded Benefits Defined. – As used in subsection (a) of this
33 section, "State-funded benefits" includes any of the following programs administered by or
34 through a contract with the DHHS but excludes any benefits or services available under these
35 programs to help eligible beneficiaries access food or meals:

- 36 (1) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Work First).
37 (2) Early Intervention Services.
38 (3) Rental or housing assistance programs.
39 (4) Medication assistance programs.
40 (5) Child care subsidy programs.
41 (6) Foster care and adoption assistance payments.
42 (7) Refugee assistance programs.
43 (8) Low Income Energy Assistance.

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- (9) Work First Cash Assistance and other employment and self-sufficiency training and services.
- (10) Medicaid.
- (11) Single-stream funding.
- (12) Inpatient psychiatric hospital services (3-Way Bed Contracts).
- (13) The State-County Special Assistance program.
- (14) Programs funded by the Home and Community Care Block Grant.
- (15) Caregiver Support programs.

SECTION 5.25.(c) Department of Commerce, Housing Finance Agency, and Local Housing Authorities. – The Department of Commerce, Housing Finance Agency, and Local Housing Authorities are directed to do all of the following:

- (1) To the extent permitted by federal law, the Department of Commerce, the Housing Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities established under Chapter 157 of the General Statutes shall take all steps necessary to cease providing publicly funded housing benefits to noncitizens residing in the United States without legal permission.
- (2) To the extent permitted by federal law, the Department of Commerce, the Housing Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities established under Chapter 157 of the General Statutes shall each develop and implement a plan to review and update the eligibility criteria for all publicly funded housing benefits to ensure that noncitizens determined to be residing in the United States without legal permission are ineligible to receive publicly funded housing benefits. As a part of this plan, the Department of Commerce, the Housing Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities established under Chapter 157 of the General Statutes shall develop a method for verifying the immigration status of applicants for publicly funded housing benefits who are noncitizens prior to the initiation of benefits.
- (3) By January 15, 2026, the Department of Commerce, the Housing Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities established under Chapter 157 of the General Statutes shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division on both of the following:
 - a. The steps taken to implement Section 5 of this act and the resulting success of those steps.
 - b. The plan developed and implemented pursuant to Section 6 of this act, which shall include a citation to each federal law or regulation that prohibits the Department, Office, Agency, or local government unit from denying eligibility for publicly funded benefits to noncitizens determined to be residing in the United States without legal permission.

SECTION 5.25.(d) Publicly Funded Housing Benefits Defined. – As used in subsection (c) of this section, "publicly funded housing benefits" means any of the following programs or assistance administered by or through a contract with the Department of Commerce,

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1 the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, and any local housing authority established under
2 Chapter 157 of the General Statutes:

- 3 (1) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG).
- 4 (2) Rental assistance programs.
- 5 (3) Transitional housing programs.
- 6 (4) Key Rental Assistance programs (KEY).
- 7 (5) Subsidized housing assistance programs.
- 8 (6) Housing Choice Voucher program (HCV).
- 9 (7) NC Home Advantage Mortgage program.
- 10 (8) NC 1st Home Advantage Down Payment program.
- 11 (9) HOME Investment Partnerships program (HOME).
- 12 (10) Community Living programs.
- 13 (11) Essential Single-Family Rehabilitation program (ESFR).
- 14 (12) Affordable Housing Development Fund program (AHDF).
- 15 (13) Emergency Solutions Grants program (ESG), including the Rapid
16 Unsheltered Survivor Housing program (RUSH).

17 **SECTION 5.25.(e)** UNC System and NC Community College. – By January 15,
18 2026, the governing bodies of The University of North Carolina System and the North Carolina
19 Community College System shall adopt and implement a policy, to the extent allowed by federal
20 law, to verify that all applicants for enrollment are legally authorized to reside in the United
21 States for determining eligibility for in-State tuition and financial aid.

22 **SECTION 5.25.(f)** Unemployment Compensation. – Notwithstanding any provision
23 of State law and to the extent permitted by federal law, by January 15, 2026, the Department of
24 Commerce, Division of Employment Security, shall adopt and implement a policy to verify, for
25 unemployment benefits purposes, that all applicants are legally authorized to reside in the United
26 States prior to the first payment of benefits.

27 **SECTION 5.25.(g)** Effective Date. – This section is effective when it becomes law.";

28
29 and on page 124, lines 5-7, by rewriting the lines to read:

30 "SECTION 7.38.(a) Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public
31 Instruction in this act, up to two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) in
32 nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in
33 nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year shall be used to create a grant program for
34 modernization of Career";

35
36 and on page 124, lines 31-32, by inserting between the lines the following to read:

37 "SECTION 7.38.(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the
38 Committee Report referenced in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated
39 to the Department of Public Instruction shall be increased by the sum of five hundred thousand
40 dollars in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to increase the funds available for
41 CTE Modernization and Expansion.

42 **SECTION 7.38.(c)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee
43 Report referenced in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated to the

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Workers' Compensation Settlement Reserve are reduced by the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.";

and on page 169, lines 16-17, by inserting between the lines the following new sections to read:

"IDS FOR STUDENTS WITH IEPs

SECTION 7.65. G.S. 115C-107.6 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(f) Each local education agency shall include in the transition plan for students with IEPs a plan for guiding and assisting the student in obtaining a North Carolina identification card issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles. With parent or legal guardian consent, the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Employment and Independence for People with Disabilities, shall be invited to be a part of the IEP team developing the transition plan to assist students with disabilities meet employment goals and identifying supports necessary to obtain the North Carolina identification card which will be required to obtain employment."

SCHOOL PLANNING SECTION DATA SHARING PLATFORM

SECTION 7.66.(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this act or the Committee Report described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public Instruction shall be increased by the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be allocated to the School Planning Section to contract with a third-party entity to maintain a digital platform to facilitate data sharing among local school administrative units and county governments regarding products and services purchased for elementary and secondary education, including capital improvement projects. In order to promote equitable purchasing in the State, all local school administrative units and county governments shall participate in the platform and share relevant information regarding educational expenses. The platform shall include at least the following components:

- (1) A consolidated information database regarding all of the following education-related expenses:
 - a. Status and details of expected, proposed, and issued local bonds.
 - b. Interactive listings, ratings, reviews, and contract costs of vendors providing products and services, including, but not limited to, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning and other services related to the maintenance of public school buildings.
 - c. Document-sharing functionality related to purchased products and services, including capital improvement projects.
- (2) The ability to advertise nationwide requests for proposals from local school administrative units and county governments for education-related products and services, including capital improvement projects.
- (3) Local school administrative units shall use the digital platform maintained pursuant to this section to report their long-range facility plans required under G.S.115C-521(a).

SECTION 7.66.(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this act or the Committee Report described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the Workers' Compensation

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1 Settlement Reserve shall be reduced by the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in
2 nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

3
4 **EXPAND K-6 LICENSE TO INCLUDE GRADES 7 AND 8**

5 **SECTION 7.67.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the State
6 Board of Education shall adopt rules expanding elementary licenses to include teachers of grades
7 seven and eight.";

8
9 and on page 197, lines 21-22, by inserting between the lines the following:

10 **"SECTION 8.28.(c)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee
11 Report referenced in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated to the Board
12 of Governors of The University of North Carolina for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium
13 shall be further decreased by the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds
14 in accordance with the provisions of this section.";

15
16 and on page 202, lines 47-48, by inserting between the lines the following:

17
18 **"RETAIN NC TALENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

19 **SECTION 8.36.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee Report
20 referenced in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated to the Board of
21 Governors of The University of North Carolina for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium
22 shall be increased by the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds from the
23 additional reduction to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina enacted
24 pursuant to Section 8.28(c) of this act. These funds shall be allocated to East Carolina University
25 to create endowed merit scholarships that will be matched with private funds.";

26 and on page 189, lines 36-37, by inserting between the lines the following:

27
28 **"PRIOR TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM REVISIONS APPLY RETROACTIVELY**
29 **TO CERTAIN TEACHING FELLOWS**

30 **SECTION 8.7A.(a)** Subsection (c) of Section 8A.4 of S.L. 2023-134 reads as
31 rewritten:

32 **"SECTION 8A.4.(c)** This section applies ~~to applications for the award of funds beginning~~
33 ~~in the 2024-2025 academic year-year to all students enrolled in an approved educator preparation~~
34 ~~at an institution of higher education participating in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows~~
35 ~~Program (Program) and receiving a forgivable loan under the Program in the 2024-2025~~
36 ~~academic year and thereafter."~~

37 **SECTION 8.7A.(b)** Section 2.14(b) of S.L. 2024-1 reads as rewritten:

38 **"SECTION 2.14.(b)** This section is effective July 1, 2023, and applies ~~to applications for~~
39 ~~the award of funds beginning in the 2024-2025 academic year-year to all students enrolled in an~~
40 ~~approved educator preparation at an institution of higher education participating in the North~~
41 ~~Carolina Teaching Fellows Program (Program) and receiving a forgivable loan under the~~
42 ~~Program in the 2024-2025 academic year and thereafter."";~~

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1 and on page 265, line 7, by deleting that line and inserting the following new language to read:
2 "Abatement Fund the sum of thirty-two million three hundred fifty thousand dollars
3 (\$32,350,000)";
4

5 and on page 465, lines 15-16, by inserting between those lines the following new section to read:

6 **"PREVENTING IDENTITY FRAUD AND ABUSE**

7 **SECTION 40.8.** In order to prevent identity fraud and abuse, State agencies shall
8 ensure that all State benefits and entitlement programs responsible for the distribution of funds
9 to individuals implement and use authentication and identity-proofing systems prior to any
10 disbursement of funds. To the greatest extent feasible, such systems shall comply with National
11 Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Authenticator Assurance Level 2 and Identity
12 Assurance Level 2 requirements.";
13

14 and on page 493, line 30, by deleting that line and substituting the following new language to
15 read:

16 "UNC/ECU21-1 60,000 60,000 49,750 N/A N/A N/A";
17

18 and on page 495, line 51, by inserting after the line the following new subsection to read:

19 **"SECTION 42.4.(f)** Notwithstanding the Committee Report referenced in Section
20 45.2 of this act or any other provision of law to the contrary, from funds available in the State
21 Capital and Infrastructure Fund, the sum of sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) in nonrecurring
22 funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and the sum of sixty million dollars (\$60,000,000) in
23 nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year shall be allocated for project code
24 UNC/ECU21-1.";
25

26 and on page 222, lines 21-22 by inserting between the lines the following language to read:

27 **"ALS GRANT MODIFICATION**

28 **SECTION 9A.2** Notwithstanding the Committee Report referenced in Section 45.2
29 of this act or any other provision of law to the contrary, the directed grant provided to the ALS
30 Association North Carolina Chapter in the sum of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in
31 nonrecurring funds for both fiscal years of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium shall instead be
32 provided to ALS United North Carolina, Inc.";
33

34 and on page 372, lines 36-37, by inserting the following new section between those lines:

35 **"FUNDING FOR FENTANYL CONTROL UNIT AND SEXUAL ASSAULT COLD**
36 **CASE TEAM**

37 **SECTION 20.10.(a)** Notwithstanding any provision of law or the Committee Report
38 described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the recurring funds appropriated in this act
39 to the Workers' Compensation Settlement Reserve beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year are
40 reduced by the sum of one million two hundred thirteen thousand one hundred fifteen dollars
41 (\$1,213,115) and the nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act to the Workers' Compensation
42 Settlement Reserve for the 2025-2026 fiscal year are reduced by the sum of three hundred eighty-
43 nine thousand five hundred forty-one dollars (\$389,541).

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SECTION 20.10.(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law or the Committee Report described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated in this act to the State Bureau of Investigation are increased by the sum of (i) one million two hundred thirteen thousand one hundred fifteen dollars (\$1,213,115) in recurring funds beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year and (ii) three hundred eighty-nine thousand five hundred forty-one dollars (\$389,541) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, to be used as follows:

- (1) Nine hundred seventy-two thousand four hundred eighty-one dollars (\$972,481) in recurring funds and three hundred sixty-two thousand eight hundred forty-three dollars (\$362,843) in nonrecurring funds to hire four drug agents and three financial crimes investigators to strengthen drug-related investigations and enforcement efforts across the State.
- (2) Two hundred forty thousand six hundred thirty-four dollars (\$240,634) in recurring funds and twenty-six thousand six hundred ninety-eight dollars (\$26,698) in nonrecurring funds to start a permanent sexual assault cold case unit, including the hiring of full-time employees.";

and on page 418, line 25, by rewriting the line to read:

"~~Chairman~~chair or the Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. The";

on page 452, lines 29-30, by inserting the following between the lines:

"SUPPORT FIREFIGHTERS FIGHTING CANCER

SECTION 38.8.(a) G.S. 143-166.2(6) reads as rewritten:

"(6) Killed in the line of duty. – This term shall apply to all of the following deaths:
...

e. When the death of a firefighter occurs as a direct and proximate result of any of the following cancers that are occupationally related to firefighting, that firefighter is presumed to have been killed in the line of duty:

1. Mesothelioma.
2. Testicular cancer.
3. Cancer of the small intestine.
4. Esophageal cancer.
5. Oral cavity cancer.
6. Pharynx cancer.
7. Cancer of the stomach, also known as gastric cancer."

SECTION 38.8.(b) This section is effective July 1, 2025, or when it becomes law, whichever is later, and applies to qualifying deaths occurring on or after that date.

SECTION 38.8.(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee Report referenced in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated to the Department of State Treasurer for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium are increased by the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in recurring funds to be used for the implementation of this section.

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- 1 **SECTION 38.8.(d)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law or of the Committee
2 Report referenced in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, the funds appropriated to the
3 Department of Revenue for returns payment and processing in Budget Code 14700 for each year
4 of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium are reduced by the sum of five hundred thousand dollars
5 (\$500,000) in recurring funds.";
6
7 and by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____

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and vote information, is available in the
House Principal Clerk's Office**