



Josh Stein, Governor

*State of North
Carolina*

GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 193: AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS AT NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS MAY CARRY CERTAIN WEAPONS ON EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY WHEN AUTHORIZED BY THE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES OR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR, TO PROVIDE THAT A PERSON MAY CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN ON EDUCATIONAL PROPERTY THAT IS THE LOCATION OF BOTH A SCHOOL AND A PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP WHEN ATTENDING WORSHIP SERVICES AND OTHER SACERDOTAL FUNCTIONS AT THE PLACE OF RELIGIOUS WORSHIP, TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT IMPOSED FOR AN ASSAULT OR THREAT AGAINST AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER, COURT OFFICER, OR LOCAL ELECTED OFFICER, TO REQUIRE PRETRIAL RELEASE CONDITIONS FOR ANY PERSON CHARGED WITH ASSAULTING OR MAKING A THREAT AGAINST AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER, LEGISLATIVE OFFICER, COURT OFFICER, LOCAL ELECTED OFFICER, OR ELECTION OFFICER TO BE DETERMINED BY A JUDGE, AND TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS FROM RESTRICTIONS ON USE FOR RELOCATED LAW ENFORCEMENT SHOOTING RANGES.

This bill would make our children less safe. Just as we should not allow guns in the General Assembly, we should keep them out of our schools unless they are in the possession of law enforcement. Law enforcement officers receive more than 800 hours of public safety education, including firearms training. On top of that, School Resource Officers receive additional training to know how to respond to crises and how to deescalate conflicts, a requirement I supported when I was Attorney General. We cannot substitute the protection offered by well-trained law enforcement officers by asking teachers and school volunteers to step in and respond to crises while armed. Just last year, an employee at a religious school in Goldsboro left a gun in a bathroom that was later found by an elementary school student.

I support, however, the provision in this legislation to better protect local elected officials from threats to their safety, and I urge the General Assembly to send me a clean bill with those protections so I can sign it.

Therefore, I veto the bill.



Josh Stein
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House on this the 9th day of July 2025, at 3:02 pm for reconsideration by that body.

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juw July 9, 2025 3:02pm
Mollie Melton