



Josh Stein, Governor

*State of North
Carolina*

GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 171: AN ACT ELIMINATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) INITIATIVES IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CLARIFYING THE PENALTY PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET ACT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND FISCAL CONTROL ACT.

The people of North Carolina deserve the best possible state government. My administration is focused on building the strongest team possible by hiring and supporting the best employees. We cannot recruit and retain them without creating a welcoming work environment. We make our most effective decisions when there is a diverse set of perspectives around the table. House Bill 171 is riddled with vague definitions yet imposes extreme penalties for unknowable violations. This bill will make it harder for state government to provide the highest quality of service.

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 3rd day of July 2025, at 10:23 AM for reconsideration by that body.

READ
JUL 03 2025

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "James White", written below the date stamp.

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

JUL 03 2025

10:23 AM

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "James White", written below the date and time stamp.