



# HOUSE BILL 126: Organ & Tissue Donation/Heart Heroes.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 11, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Murphy, Dobson, Potts, Sasser	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Samantha Yarborough*
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 126 would amend a method of making an anatomical gift under the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA), by removing the specific exclusion of tissue as an anatomical gift authorized by the placement of a symbol on the donor's drivers license or identification card.

**CURRENT LAW:** Part 3A of Article 16 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes contains the UAGA and does the following:

- Allows a donor to make an anatomical gift by authorizing the placement of a symbol on the donor's driver's license or identification card. An anatomical gift authorization given in this manor currently excludes tissue and the donor's body. § 130A-412.7(a).
- Defines "anatomical gift" as a donation of all or part of a human body to take effect after the donor's death for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education. § 130A-412.4(3).
- Defines "drivers license" as a license or permit issued by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit. § 130A-412.4(10).
- Defines "identification card" as an identification card issued by the DMV. § 130A-412.4(14).
- Defines "tissue" as a portion of the human body other than an organ or an eye. The term does not include blood unless the blood is donated for the purpose of research or education. § 130A-412.4(30).

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The act would modify a manner in which a donor authorizes an anatomical gift under the UAGA. This bill would remove the specific exclusion of tissue as an anatomical gift authorized by the placement of a symbol on the donor's driver's license or identification card.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would become effective October 1, 2019.

**BACKGROUND:** Tissue donation is currently authorized by various methods, such as registering online with Donate Life N.C. Tissues that may be donated include skin, bones, heart valves, tendons and veins. As of 2017, 54.5% of North Carolinians have registered as an organ donor at the DMV. The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws promulgated the first version of the UAGA in 1968 and has offered two major revisions to the Act since then, first in 1987 and then 2006. Every state has adopted at least one of version of the UAGA.

*\*Jessica Boney and Howard Marsilio, Staff Attorneys, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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