



# HOUSE BILL 225: Protect Governmental Accountability.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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| <b>Committee:</b>     | House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House | <b>Date:</b>        | May 2, 2019                         |
| <b>Introduced by:</b> | Reps. D. Hall, Davis, Stevens   | <b>Prepared by:</b> | Nicholas Giddings<br>Staff Attorney |
| <b>Analysis of:</b>   | First Edition   |                     |                                     |

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 225 expands the protections of the North Carolina Human Resources Act to State employees who report to agents or employees of legislative panels, evidence of illegal, fraudulent, or other improper or dangerous activity by a State agency or employee, and requires all officers, agents, agencies and departments of the State to provide information and data when requested by agents or employees of legislative panels.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S127, as introduced by Sens. Brown, Daniel, Hise, which is currently in House Judiciary.]

**CURRENT LAW:** State employees have a duty under the North Carolina Human Resources Act (NCHRA) to report verbally or in writing to their supervisor, department head, or other appropriate authority, evidence of activity by a State agency or State employee constituting any of the following:

- A violation of State or federal law, rule or regulation.
- Fraud.
- Misappropriation of State resources.
- Substantial and specific danger to the public health and safety.
- Gross mismanagement, a gross waste of monies, or gross abuse of authority.

The NCHRA prohibits retaliation, discharge, threats or discrimination regarding compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment by supervisory authorities or by other State employees against any State employee who reports or is about to report, verbally or in writing, any prohibited activity, unless the State employee knows or has reason to believe that the report is inaccurate. State law also requires all officers, agents, agencies and departments of the State to give to any committee of either house of the General Assembly, or to any individual member of the General Assembly or one of its standing committees or the chair of a standing committee, all requested information and data within their possession, or ascertainable from their records.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 225 extends the protections from retaliation, provided by the NCHRA, to the reporting by a State employee to an agent or employee of a legislative panel, of illegal, fraudulent, or other improper or dangerous activity by a State agency or employee. The bill would also require all officers, agents, agencies and departments of the State to provide information and data when requested by agents or employees of legislative panels.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act is effective when the bill becomes law.

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