



2023-2024 General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 168: Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill, Sec. 11: Clarify Public Records Statute Related to Photographs and Video Recordings of Derelict Vessels and Shipwrecks

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: Sec. 11 of S.L. 2023-70

Date: December 11, 2023
Prepared by: Aaron McGlothlin
Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Section 11 of S.L. 2023-70 repeals G.S. 121-25(b), which specifically stated that "all photographs, video recordings, or other documentary materials of a derelict vessel or shipwreck or its contents, relics, artifacts, or historic materials in the custody of any agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions shall be a public record pursuant to Chapter 132 of the General Statutes."*

This section became effective June 30, 2023.

PRIOR LAW / BACKGROUND:

The North Carolina Public Records Law broadly defines "public records" as "all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data processing records, artifacts, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of public business by any agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions."

G.S. 121-25(b) provided more specifically that "[a]ll photographs, video recordings, or other documentary materials of a derelict vessel or shipwreck or its contents, relics, artifacts, or historic materials in the custody of any agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions shall be a public record pursuant to Chapter 132 of the General Statutes."

BILL ANALYSIS: This section repealed G.S. 121-25(b).

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective June 30, 2023.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578