



HOUSE BILL 116: Jacksonville Annexation & Conforming Changes.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	July 29, 2026
Introduced by:	Rep. B. Jones	Prepared by:	Erika Churchill and Susan Barham
Analysis of:	Conference Committee Substitute (H116-CCSSTxr-10)		Committee Staff

OVERVIEW: *The Conference Committee Substitute (CCS) for House Bill 116 would add certain portions of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Marine Corps Special Operations and Command at Stones Bay to the corporate limits of the City of Jacksonville and would make changes related to that annexation.*

CURRENT LAW: Annexation is a method by which municipalities alter their boundaries. The municipality must follow statutorily prescribed steps in order to add an area into its boundaries. The municipality must provide, or contract to provide, basic services to the area. These services include police protection, fire protection, solid waste collection and the extension of water and sewer lines to the area.

North Carolina law establishes four ways by which a municipality may annex an area:

- **Voluntary Annexation.** – The owners of all real property in an area contiguous to the municipality desiring to be annexed sign a petition requesting annexation.
- **Voluntary Satellite Annexation.** – The owners of all real property in the area desiring to be annexed sign a petition requesting annexation, if it otherwise meets the statutory requirements.
- **Municipal-Initiated Annexation subject to a referendum.** – The municipality initiates an annexation proceeding, pursuant to statutory requirements.
- **Legislative Act.** – The General Assembly has the authority to extend the boundaries of any municipality.

Except under certain circumstances, a municipality may regulate land use within an area beyond its corporate limits, commonly referred to as extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ). Land use regulations include zoning, subdivision regulation, building code enforcement, minimum housing code enforcement, historic preservation, erosion and sedimentation control regulation, and historic district regulation. Generally, municipalities are authorized to exercise their ETJ powers up to the following limits:

- Up to one mile beyond its corporate limits.
- If the city's population is between 10,000 and 24,499, up to two miles beyond its corporate limits.
- If the city's population is 25,000, up to three miles beyond its corporate limits.

BILL ANALYSIS: **Section 1** would add certain portions of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Marine Corps Special Operations and Command at Stones Bay into the corporate limits of the City of Jacksonville by legislative act.¹ This section would also specify that no right of the City of Jacksonville to regulate or otherwise influence activities of the federal government or any activities and operations occurring in or on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Marine Corps Special Operations and Command at Stones Bay would be increased.

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House 116 CCS

Page 2

Section 2 would provide that the power of arrest of police officers of the City of Jacksonville, or any other powers invested to police officers in accordance with G.S. 15A-402 and G.S. 160A-286, would be limited to within 1 mile of the corporate limits of the City of Jacksonville that lies north of N.C. Highway 24. Notwithstanding this prohibition, this section would permit police officers from City of Jacksonville, transporting a person in custody to and from criminal court proceedings anywhere in this State, to arrest persons at any place within the State for offenses occurring in connection with an incident to that transportation.

Section 3 would limit the City of Jacksonville's authority to annex property north of Highway 24.

Section 4 would eliminate Jacksonville's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) authority. However, the City of Jacksonville's development regulations and powers of enforcement would remain in effect in the area until the earlier of: (i) 60 days pass after the bill becomes law or (ii) the County of Onslow adopting development regulations to govern the area.

EFFECTIVE DATE: **Section 1** would become effective June 30, 2026, and to the extent permitted under State and federal law, the property annexed as of January 1, 2026, would be subject to municipal taxes for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2026. The remainder of the act would be effective when it becomes law.

Ike McRee and Nick Giddings, counsel to Senate State and Local Government, substantially contributed to this summary.

ⁱ The United States Supreme Court and the North Carolina Supreme Court have upheld annexation of federal property into a municipality's corporate limits as long as the federal government does not object. (See *Howard v. Commissioners of Sinking Fund*, 344 U.S. 624 (1953); *In re Ordinance of Annexation No. 1977-4*, 296 N.C. 1, 245 S.E.2d 698 (1978)).