



# HOUSE BILL 1220: Various Local Provisions IX.

2025-2026 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	June 30, 2026
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Wheatley	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Michael Whitfield
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *The Third Edition of House Bill 1220 would do the following:*

- *Repeal a provision of the Charter of the Town of Stedman and allow for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the Town.*
- *Allow the Madison County Sheriff's Office to enter into memorandums of understanding with the Unicoi, Greene, and Cocke County Sheriffs' Offices in Tennessee to perform law enforcement special operations missions and cooperative law enforcement actions.*
- *Amend the Charter of the Town of Stanley to provide the Town Manager with the authority to hire, suspend, and remove all municipal employees other than the Town Attorney.*
- *Empower the Town of Pine Knoll Shores to make, adopt, and enforce ordinances for the navigable waters of canals and Bogue Sound within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the Town.*
- *Annex certain portions of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Marine Corps Special Operations and Command at Stones Bay and the New River to the corporate limits of the City of Jacksonville.*

## **Part I. Stedman Town Charter Alcoholic Beverage Sales.**

**CURRENT LAW:** The Town of Stedman was incorporated through Chapter 67 of the Private Laws of 1913. Section 8 of Chapter 67 of the Private Laws of 1913 provides that no alcoholic beverages may be manufactured or sold in the Town of Stedman.

G.S. 18B-604(b) provides that if the majority of voters in a county vote in favor of certain alcoholic beverage sales in a county election, the sale of those alcoholic beverages must be lawful throughout the entire county regardless of any previous or subsequent votes or local act that would otherwise prohibit the sale of alcohol in a municipality in that county, unless the local act was ratified before the effective date of Article II, Section 24(1)(j) of the North Carolina Constitution.

Cumberland County has approved the sale of malt beverages, unfortified wine, fortified wine, and mixed beverages in the county. However, the Charter of the Town of Stedman predates the effective date of Article II, Section 24(1)(j) of the North Carolina Constitution and accordingly remains in effect.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** **Part I** would repeal Section 8 of Chapter 67 of the Private Laws of 1913 and allow for the sale of alcoholic beverages in the town.

## **Part II. Madison County Interstate MOUs.**

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 160A-288 provides that, unless otherwise limited by local ordinance, the head of any law enforcement agency can temporarily provide assistance to another law enforcement agency,

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including law enforcement agencies from other states, upon written request and subject to certain restrictions.

**BILL ANALYSIS: Part II** would allow the Madison County Sheriff's Office to enter into memorandums of understanding with the Unicoi, Greene, and Cocke County Sheriffs' Offices in Tennessee to engage across state lines in law enforcement special operations missions and cooperative law enforcement actions. Any memorandum of understanding entered into pursuant to this Part would specify the manner in which liability claims for damage to persons or property due to law enforcement special operations missions and cooperative law enforcement actions would be shared or assigned. While ensuring public safety, each memorandum of understanding would limit to the greatest extent possible the liability of Madison County and the State. No later than November 1 of each year, any memorandum of understanding entered into that year pursuant to this Part would be reported to the Department of Justice.

## **Part III. Stanley Town Charter Manager Authority.**

**CURRENT LAW:** The Town of Stanley was re-chartered by the General Assembly in 1911. Since then, the Charter of the Town of Stanley has been amended several times by acts of the General Assembly and local modifications. Section 9 of the Charter of the Town of Stanley provides that the Town Manager has the authority to hire, suspend, and remove all Town employees other than the Town Attorney, the Town Tax Collector, and the Town Clerk.

**BILL ANALYSIS: Part III** would amend the Charter of the Town of Stanley to provide the Town Manager with the authority to hire, suspend, and remove all municipal employees other than the Town Attorney and make various technical and conforming changes to Section 9 of the Charter.

## **Part IV. Pine Knoll Shores Navigational Markers.**

**CURRENT LAW:** Under G.S. 75A-15, the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) is empowered to adopt rules for local waters as to the (i) operation of vessels, including restrictions concerning speed zones, (ii) promotion of boating and water safety, and (iii) placement and maintenance of navigation aids and markers under G.S. 75A-15(a)(3).

**BILL ANALYSIS: Part IV** would empower the Town of Pine Knoll Shores (Town) to adopt and enforce ordinances for the navigable waters of canals and Bogue Sound within the corporate limits and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the Town concerning:

- Placement and maintenance of channel aids and markers, anchoring aids and markers, and navigational aids and markers in conformity with the United States Aids to Navigation System and the rules of WRC as adopted for use on the State's waters. The Town's Board of Commissioners would be required, by ordinance, to identify the location of the devices by use of Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates and to notify the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in writing of the intent to place devices at least six weeks prior to placement of any devices.
- The enforcement of ordinances adopted under authority of this Part in accordance with G.S. 160A-175.

Additionally, it would clarify that the Part is intended to supersede G.S. 75A-15(a)(3) within the Town's corporate limits, but that any other State or federal rule or regulation will supersede and prevail over the local ordinance to the extent of any conflict between the two.

It would further provide that law enforcement officers of the Town, the Carteret County Sheriff's Office, and WRC have authority to enforce any local ordinance adopted under the authority of this Part.

## **Part V. Jacksonville Annexation.**

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**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.

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)).

**BILL ANALYSIS: Part V** would annex certain portions of Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Marine Corps Special Operations and Command at Stones Bay and the New River into the corporate limits of the City of Jacksonville by legislative act.

Additionally, it would provide that the Part would not increase any 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 and the New River.

## **Part VII. Effective Date.**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Part V of the bill 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 bill would be effective when it becomes law.