



**This Bill Analysis
reflects the contents
of the bill as it was
presented in
committee.**

HOUSE BILL 251: Disaster Response Funding/Nondiscrimination.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re- refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	May 21, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Hastings, Greene, Balkcom, Bell	Prepared by:	Kyle Evans
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 251 would modify the North Carolina Emergency Management Act by doing the following:*

- *Make it a Class I felony to discriminate against a person for disaster recovery based on political affiliation or political speech.*
- *Provide that no applicant for any State emergency assistance in the form of grants shall be required to provide any personal demographic information unless the information is necessary to award the grant or is otherwise required by law.*

CURRENT LAW:

State and local governmental bodies and other organizations and personnel who carry out emergency management functions under the provisions of this Article are required to do so in an equitable and impartial manner. Such State and local governmental bodies, organizations, and personnel shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, or economic status in the distribution of supplies, the processing of applications, and other relief and assistance activities. [G.S. 166A-19.74](#).

The Governor is authorized to make State funds available for emergency assistance for recovery from emergencies for which federal assistance is either not available or does not adequately meet the needs of citizens. The Governor is authorized to make emergency assistance in the form of grants available to individuals, families, and eligible entities if certain criteria are met. [G.S. 166A-19.41](#).

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 2 would make it a Class I felony for the State or its agencies and employees to deny or discriminate against a United States citizen, United States national, or qualified alien as defined in 826 U.S.C. § 1641 for disaster recovery assistance on the basis of political affiliation or political speech.

Section 3 would modify G.S. 166A-19.41 to require that any State emergency assistance in the form of grants must be administered free from discrimination. Specifically, no applicant for any State emergency assistance in the form of grants may be required to provide any personal demographic information unless that information was necessary to award the grant or to otherwise comply with State or federal law.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 2 would become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of the act would be effective when it becomes law.

**Susan Sitze, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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