



HOUSE BILL 547: Children's Services Protection Act.

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

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Health. If favorable, re-refer to **Date:** April 30, 2025
Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Rules,
Calendar, and Operations of the House

Introduced by: Reps. Chesser, Balkcom, N. Jackson, **Prepared by:** Debbie Griffiths
Schietzelt Staff Attorney

Analysis of: PCS to First Edition
H547-CSCI-25

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 547 would add a new section to Article 31 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes which would do the following:*

- *Define nongovernmental contractor and public agency as follows:*
 - *Nongovernmental contractor-any corporation, organization, or association, incorporated or otherwise, organized and operating within the State, or an individual, licensed under Article 2 of Chapter 122C or Article 1A of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes.*
 - *Public agency-The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and any county or local agency administering programs of public assistance pursuant to Chapter 108A of the General Statutes.*
- *Clarify that nongovernmental contractors with a public agency contracting to provide services to minors may be held liable for injury or damage caused by their negligence but would not be held liable for injury or damage caused by the negligence of the public agency, including any employee, volunteer, officer, or agent of the public agency acting within the scope of their employment or contract.*
- *Clarify that the nongovernmental contractor and the public agency must each bear their own litigation costs.*
- *Limit the liability of the nongovernmental contractor to the monetary limits on payments equivalent to those of a public agency as provided for in G.S. 143-299.2.*
- *Require the action be filed in a court of competent jurisdiction instead of the Industrial Commission.*

BILL ANALYSIS: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 547 would add a new section to Article 31 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes which would do the following:*

- *Define nongovernmental contractor and public agency as follows:*
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Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
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- Public agency-The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and any county or local agency administering programs of public assistance pursuant to Chapter 108A of the General Statutes.
- Clarify that nongovernmental contractors with a public agency contracting to provide services to minors may be held liable for injury or damage caused by their negligence but would not be held liable for injury or damage caused by the negligence of the public agency, including any employee, volunteer, officer, or agent of the public agency acting within the scope of their employment or contract.
- Clarify that the nongovernmental contractor and the public agency must each bear their own litigation costs.
- Limit the liability of the nongovernmental contractor to the monetary limits on payments by the State in G.S. 143-299.2.
- Require the action be filed in a court of competent jurisdiction instead of the Industrial Commission.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2025, and apply to claims arising from acts or omissions occurring on or after that date and contracts entered into or renewed on or after that date.