



# HOUSE BILL 926: Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

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

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re- refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 29, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Riddell, Zenger, Chesser	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kyle Evans
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H926-CSBR-11		Jennifer McGinnis Chris Saunders Aaron McGlothlin Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 926 (PCS) would amend State laws related to health and wellness, occupational licensing, business, State and local government, and the Administrative Procedure Act.*

## CURRENT LAW & BILL ANALYSIS:

### PART I. HEALTH AND WELLNESS

#### EXEMPT CERTIFIED REFLEXOLOGISTS FROM OVERSIGHT FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY

The North Carolina Massage and Bodywork Therapy Practice Act establishes legal requirements for licensure and regulation of massage and bodywork therapy practitioners ([Article 36 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes](#)).

G.S. 90-622 defines "massage and bodywork therapy" as "systems of activity applied to the soft tissues of the human body for therapeutic, educational, and relaxation purposes. The application may include (i) pressure, friction, stroking, rocking, kneading, percussion, or passive or active stretching within the normal anatomical range of movement; (ii) complimentary methods, including the external application of water, heat, cold, lubricants, and other topical preparations; and (iii) the use of mechanical devices that mimic or enhance actions that may possibly be done by the hands."

**Section 1** would provide that the following individuals engaged in the practice of reflexology are not subject to licensure requirements or regulation under the Massage and Bodywork Therapy Practice Act:

- Nationally certified reflexologists who have a current certification from the American Reflexology Certification Board (ARCB).
- Reflexology students working to obtain certification from the ARCB under the supervision of an ARCB-certified reflexologist. The licensure exemption for reflexology students would be effective for a maximum of 12 months from the beginning of the certification process.

This section would define "reflexology" as "a protocol of manual techniques, including thumb- and finger-walking, hook and backup, and rotating-on-a-point, that are applied to specific reflex areas predominately on the feet and hands and that stimulate the complex neural pathways linking body systems

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and support the body's efforts to function optimally." This section would become effective October 1, 2025.

## **ALLOW PHYSICAL THERAPISTS TO EVALUATE STUDENT ATHLETE HEAD INJURIES DURING ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES**

[G.S. 115C-407.57](#) establishes requirements for the State Board of Education in adopting rules on concussions and head injuries for middle and high school students. When a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with a concussion, they must be removed from the activity and cannot return to play or practice until cleared to do so by an enumerated list of medical professionals, including a licensed doctor, neuropsychologist, athletic trainer, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner.

**Section 2** would add to the enumerated list of health professionals a licensed physical therapist, allowing licensed physical therapists to evaluate and clear students for athletic participation following a concussion or head injury.

## **PART II. OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING AND ACCREDITATION**

### **EXEMPT LEGISLATORS FROM GENERAL CONTRACTOR CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS**

Legislators who are licensed attorneys are [exempt from continuing legal education requirements](#). Similarly, legislators who are licensed real estate brokers are [exempt from continuing education requirements for real estate brokers](#).

**Section 3** would exempt legislators from continuing education requirements for general contractors.

### **END DUAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR AUDIOLOGISTS**

It is generally unlawful for a person to fit or sell hearing aids without being licensed to do so by the State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board. In addition to this Board, there exists the Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists. This Board licenses speech pathologists and audiologists independently.

Under current law, licensed audiologists who possess a doctoral degree in audiology are expressly authorized to fit or sell hearing aids, without being required to obtain separate licensure from the State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board.

**Section 4** would authorize anyone holding an unrestricted license as an audiologist, audiology assistant, or certified technician from the Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists to fit or sell hearing aids without having to obtain separate licensure from the State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board.

### **LOCKED HEARING AID DISCLOSURES FOR HEARING AID FITTERS, DEALERS, AND AUDIOLOGISTS**

[G.S. 93D-7](#) requires that every person fitting or selling a hearing aid, at or before the time of delivery, provide the purchaser a statement of sale that includes the following information: the date of sale; whether the hearing aid is new, used, or refurbished; the hearing aid identification number; name of manufacturer;

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price of hearing aid; charge for fitting and service; name of the dealer or fitter; and the customer's signature. This requirement does not apply to the selling of over-the-counter hearing aids.

**Section 5** would establish certain requirements applicable to licensed hearing aid specialists who sell "locked hearing aids," which are defined as "a hearing aid that uses either proprietary programming software or locked, nonproprietary programming software that restricts programming or servicing of the device to specific facilities or providers."

This section would require licensed hearing aid specialists who sell locked hearing aids to provide purchasers with the following written notice in 12-point font type or larger, prior to the sale:

"The hearing aid being purchased uses proprietary or locked programming software and can only be serviced or programmed at specific facilities or locations."

The purchaser would have to sign this written notice prior to completing the sale.

Upon selling a locked hearing aid, the seller must deliver to the purchaser a written receipt that provides, in addition to the information required by G.S. 93D-7, the following information: the date of sale; the make, model, and serial number of the hearing aid; whether the hearing aid is new, used, or reconditioned; the name and license number of each person who sold or provided any recommendation or consultation regarding the purchase; the address and office hours for the licensee's business; and the terms of any guarantee or written warranty made to the purchaser.

This section would also require the seller to maintain the following records for at least seven years after the sale, including: a copy of the written notice signed by the purchaser; a copy of the receipt containing all requisite information regarding the sale; the results of any audiologic tests or measurements performed; and a copy of any written recommendations prepared as part of the fitting or dispensing of the hearing aid.

**Section 6** would establish requirements for licensed audiologists that are identical to those requirements in Section 5 which are applicable to hearing aid specialists.

**Sections 5 and 6** would become effective October 1, 2025.

## **AUTHORIZE BROKERS TO REGISTER WITH MULTIPLE DEALERS**

It is unlawful for any person to transact business in the State as a dealer or salesman of securities unless the person is registered with the Secretary of State. A dealer cannot employ a salesman unless the salesman is registered, and a salesman can only be registered to one dealer at a time.

**Section 7** would permit a salesman to register with more than one dealer at a time if each of the dealers that employ the salesman is under common ownership or control, or the multi-registration is otherwise allowed by rule or order of the Secretary of State.

## **PART III. BUSINESS REFORMS**

### **ALLOW BUYER'S AGENT COMPENSATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE OFFER TO PURCHASE**

By rule adopted by the North Carolina Real Estate Commission, a broker acting as an agent in a real estate transaction may not use a preprinted offer or sales contract that includes any provision regarding the payment of commission or compensation to a broker or firm.

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**Section 8** would direct the Real Estate Commission to implement its rule concerning offer and sales contracts to allow preprinted contracts to include provisions regarding the payment of commission or compensation and amend its rule consistent with that implementation.

## **LIMIT LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO ADOPT REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE THAT ARE MORE STRINGENT THAN STATE LAW**

**Section 9** would prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing requirements for the construction, alteration, or operation of water or sewer systems, including specific materials to be used, in association with development that are more stringent than corresponding requirements in State law<sup>1</sup> unless the requirements are approved by the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and adopted by ordinance. The EMC could only approve more stringent requirements where it determines that the requirement is necessary or advisable to address specific concerns of the jurisdiction in question due to geography or other factors, and, if so, whether the requirement is a cost-effective approach to meet the regulatory objective.

This section would become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to a requirement for the construction, alteration, or operation of a water or sewer system in association with development adopted or enforced on or after that date.

## **ALLOWING THE USE OF UNGRADED LUMBER IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES**

The North Carolina Residential Code and the North Carolina Building Code currently require that all sawn lumber and end-jointed lumber used for load-supporting purposes be identified by a grade mark or certification of inspection issued by a lumber grading or inspection agency.

**Section 10** would direct the Residential Code Council to amend the North Carolina Residential Code and the Building Code Council to amend the North Carolina Building Code to allow dimension lumber that has not been grade-stamped to be used in the construction of one- and two-family dwellings and structures classified as Residential Group R-2 or R-3, when certain conditions are met.

**Section 11** would direct North Carolina Cooperative Extension to create a lumber grading training program to provide for the certification of lumber graders, and allow the Extension to authorize private lumber grading programs to certify lumber graders.

**Section 12** would require that building permit applicants submit certain additional information with their building permit application for structures construed with lumber that has not been grade-stamped under the authority of a lumber grading bureau.

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<sup>1</sup> Subchapters [2T](#) and [18C](#) of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code

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## **DELAY PHASED-IN MANDATORY COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL REPORTING OF CERTAIN FISH HARVESTS, AS ENACTED BY S.L. 2023-137**

Section 6 of S.L. 2023-137 enacted mandatory commercial and recreational fishing reporting requirements for certain fisheries. Failing to complete the mandatory reporting would result in a violation punishable by a verbal warning, beginning December 1, 2024, issuance of a warning ticket, beginning December 1, 2025, and an infraction and \$35 fine, beginning December 1, 2026. S.L. 2024-45 delayed the implementation of these punishments by a year.

**Section 14** would further delay the punishment of a verbal warning to December 1, 2026, a warning ticket to December 1, 2027, and the punishment of an infraction and \$35 fine to December 1, 2028.

## **CARRIER LIABILITY FOR FAILURE TO USE CUSTOMER PROVIDED PARCEL LOCKER FOR PACKAGE DELIVERY**

**Section 15** would provide that a package carrier is liable for loss of a package if the carrier fails to deliver a package to a parcel locker provided by the intended recipient of the package if the parcel locker is compatible with a carrier's requirements for delivery, and the intended recipient has otherwise complied with any requirements of the carrier with respect to use of the parcel locker. The term "parcel locker" is defined as a lockable storage unit designed to store packages for recipients securely.

## **NO DISCRIMINATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION AGAINST CREDITS, DEGREES, OR CERTIFICATIONS BASED ON ACCREDITOR IDENTITY WHERE THE ACCREDITOR IS RECOGNIZED BY THE US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**Section 16** would direct both the State Board of Community Colleges and the Board of Governors to adopt policies prohibiting any community college or any constituent institution of the UNC System from denying or treating disparately any potential transfer credit, degree, or other certification for any purpose, based solely on the basis of the identity of the accreditor, provided that the institution providing the credits, degrees, or certifications holds an accreditation from any accreditor recognized by the US Department of Education.

## **PART IV. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE ACT AMENDMENTS**

### **EXTEND NOTICE REQUIRED BEFORE CONTESTED CASE HEARINGS**

**Section 17** would extend the minimum notice of hearing required to be given to parties in a contested case by the Office of Administrative Hearings from 15 days to 45 days.

### **REQUIRE AGENCY ATTORNEYS TO COMPLY WITH RULE 4.2 OF THE RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN CONTESTED CASES**

**Section 18** would require that a lawyer representing a State agency in a contested case under either Article 3 or Article 3A<sup>2</sup> of the Administrative Procedure Act not communicate about the subject of the representation with a person the lawyer knows is represented by another lawyer in the matter. A violation would be considered a violation of Rule 4.2 of the State Bar's Rules of Professional Conduct.

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<sup>2</sup> Article 3A of the Administrative Procedure Act governs contested cases involving (i) occupational licensing boards, (ii) the State Banking Commission, the Commissioner of Banks, and the Credit Union Division of the Department of Commerce, (iii) the Department of Insurance and the Commissioner of Insurance, (iv) the State Chief Information Officer in the administration of the Department of Information Technology, (v) the State Building Code Council, and (vi) the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the State Fire Marshal.

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## **ENCOURAGE ARTICLE 3A AGENCIES TO NEGOTIATE INFORMALLY**

The official policy of the State in disputes between a State agency and another person is that those disputes should be settled through informal procedures. A contested case may be filed only if the dispute cannot be resolved informally.

**Section 19** would make clear that this also applies to Article 3A of the Administrative Procedure Act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Unless otherwise specified, this act would become effective when law.