



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

SENATE BILL 801: Protect Special Ops Forces/No Doxing/Funds.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations/Base Budget	Date:	June 17, 2026
Introduced by:	Sens. McInnis, Lazzara, Britt	Prepared by:	Michael Johnston Committee Counsel
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 801 would do the following:*

- *Exempt from public records requirements the disclosure of identification and location information of current and former special operations forces personnel and their dependents.*
- *Expand the Address Confidentiality Program to cover current and former special operations forces personnel and their dependents.*
- *Enact the Civil Liability for Doxing Act.*
- *Appropriate funds to effectuate the purposes of this act.*

SECTION 1.1: PUBLIC RECORDS EXEMPTION

CURRENT LAW:

Under G.S. 132-1, public records and public information compiled by the agencies of North Carolina government or its subdivisions are the property of the people. Public records include all documents, papers, letters, maps, books, photographs, films, sound recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data-processing records, artifacts, or other documentary material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, made or received pursuant to law or ordinance in connection with the transaction of public business by any agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions. However, Chapter 132 of the General Statutes exempts multiple types of records and information from public records laws.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1.1 would provide that identification and location information of current and former special operations personnel and their spouses and dependents held by a State agency is confidential, not a public record as defined by G.S. 132-1, and is exempt from disclosure when the current or former special operations personnel member submits the following to the State agency that has custody of the identification and location information:

- A written request to exempt the member's identification and location information from public disclosure; and
- A written statement that the member has made reasonable efforts to protect the identification and location information from being accessible through other means available to the public.

Identification and location information would be defined to include:

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- Home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of current and former special operations personnel and the telephone numbers associated with the personal communication devices of current and former special operations personnel.
- Home addresses, telephone numbers, and dates of birth of the spouses and dependents of current and former special operations personnel, and the telephone numbers associated with the personal communication devices of such spouses and dependents.
- Names and locations of schools attended by the spouses of current and former special operations personnel and schools or daycare facilities attended by dependents of current and former special operations personnel.

This section would apply to identification and location information held by a custodian before, on, or after the effective date of this act.

SECTION 2.1: ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

CURRENT LAW:

Chapter 15C of the General Statutes provides for the Address Confidentiality Program under the Office of the Attorney General. The program is intended to protect the confidentiality of the address of a relocated victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, or stalking to prevent the victim's assailants or potential assailants from finding the victim through public records. Under the program, the Attorney General designates a substitute address for a program participant and acts as the agent of the program participant for purposes of service of process and receiving and forwarding first-class mail or certified or registered mail. A victim of domestic violence, sexual offense, stalking, or human trafficking can file an application with the Attorney General to participate in the program, and upon meeting the requirements in G.S. 15C-4, the Attorney General certifies the applicant as a program participant and issues an authorization card to the individual. A certification generally lasts for four years and can be renewed.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 2.1 would allow special operations personnel to participate in the Address Confidentiality Program established in the Office of the Attorney General. The special operations personnel would be required to file an application with the Attorney General, and upon meeting the requirements listed in the new G.S. 114-76, the Attorney General would certify the applicant as a program participant and would issue an authorization card to the individual. A certification would generally last for four years and could be renewed.

SECTION 3.1: CIVIL LIABILITY FOR DOXING ACT

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 3.1 would enact the Civil Liability for Doxing Act. Doxing would be defined as the unauthorized publication of identification and location information with intent or knowledge that the information will be used to harm the individual whose information is published or with reckless disregard for the risk that the information will be used to harm the individual whose information is published. Under this section, doxing special operations personnel would be unlawful. A person could be held civilly liable for publishing an individual's identification and location information under the following circumstances:

- Without the express consent of the individual whose information is published with intent or knowledge that the information will be used to harm the individual whose information is published; or

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- In reckless disregard of the risk that the information will be used to harm the individual whose information is published; and
- The publication causes the individual whose information is published to suffer one or more of the following:
 - Physical injury.
 - Significant economic injury.
 - Mental anguish.
 - Fear of serious bodily injury or death for themselves or a close relation to themselves.
 - A substantial life disruption.

There would be several exceptions to civil liability for providing identification and location information, including when reporting criminal activity, in connection with an exercise of the right of freedom of speech or of the press, the right to assemble or petition, or the right of association, guaranteed by the United States Constitution or the North Carolina Constitution, and to, or in the course of acting as, or on behalf of the news media.

A prevailing claimant who brings a civil action would be entitled to recover any or all of the following remedies upon request: (i) compensatory damages; (ii) punitive damages; (iii) statutory damages of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per violation; (iv) costs and reasonable attorneys' fees; (v) injunctive relief; and (vi) any other relief deemed appropriate by the court.

This section would become effective October 1, 2026.

SECTIONS 4, 5, & 6: APPROPRIATIONS

Section 4 would appropriate from the General Fund to the Department of Justice (DOJ) the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to extend coverage under Chapter 15C of the General Statutes (Address Confidentiality Program) to special operations personnel as defined in G.S. 132-1.15, as enacted by this act. By March 1, 2027, and then annually thereafter, the Attorney General would report to the General Assembly and Fiscal Research Division on DOJ's progress in extending coverage under this act.

Section 5 would appropriate from the General Fund to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to inform servicemembers, veterans, and the general public about the protections available under this act.

Section 6 would appropriate from the General Fund to the Department of Information Technology (DIT) the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to provide technical assistance to State agencies and local political subdivisions of the State that may be required for their compliance with the provisions of this act.

These sections would become effective July 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act would become effective when it becomes law.