



CHAPTER 126
ARTICLE 14 - PROTECTION FOR REPORTING IMPROPER GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES

N.C.G.S. § 126-85.

Protection from retaliation.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2025-25, s. 14(b) — eighth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 02:05 UTC	442fd2dbce94bba2707dfd9c - 3028a38c58237fc7f6ec1a77 - e2c701e6166d0807

- § 126-85(a)

No head of any State department, agency, or institution or other State employee exercising supervisory authority shall discharge, threaten, or otherwise discriminate against a State employee regarding the State employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment because the State employee, or a person acting on behalf of the employee, reports or is about to report, verbally or in writing, any activity described in G.S. 126-84, unless the State employee knows or has reason to believe that the report is inaccurate.
- § 126-85(a1)

No State employee shall retaliate against another State employee because the employee, or a person acting on behalf of the employee, reports or is about to report, verbally or in writing, any activity described in G.S. 126-84.
- § 126-85(b)

No head of any State department, agency, or institution or other State employee exercising supervisory authority shall discharge, threaten, or otherwise discriminate against a State employee regarding the employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment because the State employee has refused to carry out a directive that in fact constitutes a violation of State or federal law, rule, or regulation or poses a substantial and specific danger to the public health and safety.
- § 126-85(b1)

No State employee shall retaliate against another State employee because the employee has refused to carry out a directive that may constitute a violation of State or federal law, rule, or regulation or poses a substantial and specific danger to the public health and safety.

§ 126-85(c)

The protections of this Article include State employees who report any activity described in G.S. 126-84 to the State Auditor as authorized by G.S. 147-64.6B, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations as authorized by G.S. 120-75.1, or to a legislative committee as required by G.S. 120-19.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
8 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1989	c. 236, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1997	S.L. 1997-520, s. 6	AMENDED
03	2008	S.L. 2008-196, s. 2(b)	AMENDED
04	2008	S.L. 2008-215, s. 8	AMENDED
05	2019	S.L. 2019-80, s. 2	AMENDED
06	2021	S.L. 2021-180, s. 27.2(e)	AMENDED
07	2022	S.L. 2022-6, s. 15.1(b)	AMENDED
08	2025	S.L. 2025-25, s. 14(b)	AMENDED

APPARATUS II

4 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 126-84	(a)	"in writing, any activity described in"
G.S. 147-64.6B	(c)	"the State Auditor as authorized by"
G.S. 120-75.1	(c)	"on Governmental Operations as authorized by"
G.S. 120-19	(c)	"a legislative committee as required by"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 126-85 (2025).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 126-85(a) (2025).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

Provenance

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This is not the official text. The official text is published by the General Assembly of North Carolina.

HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1989, c. 236, s. 1; 1997-520, s. 6; 2008-196, s. 2(b); 2008-215, s. 8; 2019-80, s. 2; 2021-180, s. 27.2(e); 2022-6, s. 15.1(b); 2025-25, s. 14(b).)

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