## GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023

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## **SENATE BILL DRS35064-MR-53**

Short Title:	Government Transparency Act of 2023.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Sanderson, Rabon, and Meyer (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:		
	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED	
	O STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT BY I	
	IBILITY TO CERTAIN PUBLIC PERSONNEL PERFORMA	ANCE AND
	AL RECORDS.	
	Assembly of North Carolina enacts:	
	ECTION 1.(a) G.S. 126-23 reads as rewritten: ertain records to be kept by State agencies open to inspection.	
	ach department, agency, institution, commission and bureau of the	ne State shall
	cord of each of its employees, showing the following information w	
each such em		in respect to
(1)		
(2)		
(3)		
(4)	The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed with	hether written
	or oral, past and current, to the extent that the agency has the wi	ritten contract
	or a record of the oral contract in its possession.	
(5)	•	
(6)		
(7)	•	
(8)	•	it department,
(0)	agency, institution, commission, or bureau.	.•
(9)		-
	or other change in position classification with that departm	nent, agency,
(1)	institution, commission, or bureau.	daganintian af
(1)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-
	the reasons for each promotion of the following with that departing institution, commission, or bureau:	ment, agency,
	<ul> <li>b. Demotion.</li> <li>c. Transfer.</li> <li>d. Suspension.</li> <li>e. Separation.</li> <li>f. Dismissal.</li> </ul>	
	d. Suspension.	
	e. Separation.	
	f. Dismissal.	
(1	<del>-</del>	<u>-dismissal</u> for
	disciplinary reasons taken by the department, agency, institution	, commission,
	or bureau. If the disciplinary action was a dismissal, bureau,	a copy of the



written notice of the final decision of the head of the department setting forth 1 2 the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal. 3 (12)The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned. 4 5 Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any (f) 6 confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 7 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 8 327, or other applicable law. 9 The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision (a)(10) of this section: 10 11 No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from (1) disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action 12 prohibited by applicable law." 13 14 The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, (2) separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under 15 subsection (a) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period 16 17 to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process." 18 19 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 126-22(b) reads as rewritten: 20 "(b) For purposes of this Article the following definitions apply: 21 (1) "Employee" means any current State employee, former State employee, or applicant for State employment.employment subject to this Article. 22 "Employer" means any State department, university, division, bureau, 23 (2) 24 commission, council, or other agency subject to Article 7 of this Chapter.this 25 Article. The term "university" shall include all of the following, as defined in 26 G.S. 116-2: 27 The Board. <u>a.</u> 28 The Board of Trustees. b. 29 Chancellor. <u>c.</u> 30 d. Constituent institutions. 31 The President. 32 "Personnel file" means any employment-related or personal information (3) 33 gathered by an employer or by the Office of State Human Resources. 34 Employment-related information contained in a personnel file includes 35 information related to an individual's application, selection, promotion, 36 demotion, transfer, leave, salary, contract for employment, benefits, 37 suspension, performance evaluation, disciplinary actions, and termination. Personal information contained in a personnel file includes an individual's 38 39 home address, social security number, medical history, personal financial 40 data, marital status, dependents, and beneficiaries. 41 "Record" means the personnel information that each employer is required to (4) 42 maintain in accordance with G.S. 126-23." 43 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-320 reads as rewritten: 44 "§ 115C-320. Certain records open to inspection. 45 Each local board of education shall maintain a record of each of its employees, 46 showing the following information with respect to each employee: 47 (1) Name.

(3) Date of original employment or appointment.

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(2)

Age.

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The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned.

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Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any (d) confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 327, or other applicable law.

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The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision (e) (a)(10) of this section:

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No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from (1) disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action prohibited by applicable law."

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The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, (2) separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under subsection (a) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."

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**SECTION 3.** G.S. 115D-28 reads as rewritten:

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## "§ 115D-28. Certain records open to inspection.

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Each board of trustees shall maintain a record of each of its employees, showing the following information with respect to each employee:

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Name. (1)

46 47 (2) Age.

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(3) Date of original employment or appointment.

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The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written (4) or oral, past and current, to the extent that the board has the written contract or a record of the oral contract in its possession.

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(5) Current position.

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- or a record of the oral contract in its possession.
- Current position. (5)
- Title. (6)

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- Current salary. (7)
- (8) Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with that area authority.

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(9)	Date and type each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or
	other change in position classification with that area authority.
(10)	Date Subject to subsection (j) of this section, date and general description of
	the reasons for each promotion of the following with that area
	authority.authority:
	<u>a.</u> <u>Promotion.</u>
	b. <u>Demotion.</u>
	c. <u>Transfer.</u>
	d. Suspension.
	e. Separation.
	<ul><li><u>e.</u> Separation.</li><li><u>f.</u> Dismissal.</li></ul>
(11)	Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demotion dismissal for
,	disciplinary reasons taken by the area authority. If the disciplinary action was
	a dismissal, authority, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of the
	area authority setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of
	the dismissal.
(12)	The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned.
	The office of summer of which the outproject is containly use-given.
	ng in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any
	rmation protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
	110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat.
327, or other app	
	following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision
(b)(10) of this sec	ction:
<u>(1)</u>	No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from
	disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action
	prohibited by applicable law."
<u>(2)</u>	The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension,
	separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under
	subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period
	to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final
	decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."
SECT	FION 5. G.S. 130A-45.9 reads as rewritten:
"§ 130A-45.9. C	confidentiality of personnel information.
•••	• 1
(b) The fo	ollowing information with respect to each employee of a public health authority
is a matter of pub	olic record:
<u>(1)</u>	name; Name.
<u>(2)</u>	age; Age.
(3)	date Date of original employment or appointment; appointment.
<u>(4)</u>	beginning Beginning and ending dates, dates.
<u>(5)</u>	position title, Current position and title.
<u>(6)</u>	position descriptions, Position description.
<u>(7)</u>	<u>Current salary</u> and total compensation of current and former positions;
<del>3.7.7</del>	positions. For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "total compensation"
	includes pay, benefits, incentives, bonuses, and deferred and all other forms
	of compensation paid by the employing entity.
<u>(8)</u>	the The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether
<u>(U)</u>	written or oral, past and current, to the extent that the authority has the written
	contract or a record of the oral contract in its <del>possession, possession.</del>
	contact of a record of the office confident in its possession, possession.

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1	<u>(9)</u>	and date Date and type of the most recent each promotion, demotion, transfer,
2	<del></del>	suspension, separation, or other change in position classification.
3	<u>(10)</u>	Subject to subsection (e) of this section, date and general description of the
4		reasons for each of the following with that public health authority:
5		a. <u>Promotion.</u>
6		<u>b.</u> <u>Demotion.</u>
7		
8		<ul> <li><u>C.</u> Transfer.</li> <li><u>d.</u> Suspension.</li> <li><u>e.</u> Separation.</li> <li>f. Dismissal.</li> </ul>
9		e. Separation.
10		<u>f.</u> <u>Dismissal.</u>
11	<u>(11)</u>	For each dismissal for disciplinary reasons taken by the public health
12		authority, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of the public health
13		authority setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the
14		dismissal.
15	<u>(12)</u>	The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned.
16	<u>(13)</u>	In addition, the following information with respect to each licensed medical
17		provider employed by or having privileges to practice in a public health
18		facility shall be a matter of public record: educational history and
19		qualifications, date and jurisdiction or original and current licensure; and
20		information relating to medical board certifications or other qualifications of
21		medical specialists. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "total
22		compensation" includes pay, benefits, incentives, bonuses, and deferred and
23		all other forms of compensation paid by the employing entity.
24		
25	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	ng in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any
26		rmation protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
27		110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat.
28	327, or other app	
29		following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision
30 31	$\frac{\text{(b)(10) of this se}}{\text{(1)}}$	
	<u>(1)</u>	No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action
32 33		prohibited by applicable law."
34	(2)	The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension,
35	<u>(2)</u>	separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under
36		subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period
37		to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final
38		decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."
39	SEC	FION 6. G.S. 131E-257.2 reads as rewritten:
40		Privacy of employee personnel records.
41	<b>3</b>	way an an-passy are processed and
42	(b) The fe	ollowing information with respect to each public hospital employee is a matter
43	of public record:	
44	(1)	Name.
45	(2)	Age.
46	(3)	Date of original employment.
47	(4)	Current position title.
48	(5)	Date of the most recent and type for each promotion, demotion, transfer,
49		suspension, separation or other change in position classification.
50	(6)	The office to which the employee is currently assigned.
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Page 6 DRS35064-MR-53 <u>e.</u>

f.

Dismissal.

- Subject to subsection (j) of this section, date and general description of the 1 (7) 2 reasons for each of the following with that public hospital: 3 Promotion. 4 Demotion. <u>b.</u> 5 Transfer. <u>c.</u> 6 d. Suspension. 7 Separation.
  - For each dismissal for disciplinary reasons taken by the public hospital, a copy (8) of the written notice of the final decision of the public hospital setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal.
  - In addition, the following information with respect to For each licensed <u>(9)</u> medical provider employed by or having privileges to practice in a public hospital shall be a matter of public record: hospital, the following information: educational history and qualifications, date and jurisdiction or original and current licensure; and information relating to medical board certifications or other qualifications of medical specialists.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any (i) confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 327, or other applicable law.

- The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision (b)(7)(i) of this section:
  - No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from (1) disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action prohibited by applicable law."
  - <u>(2)</u> The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."

**SECTION 7.(a)** G.S. 153A-98 reads as rewritten:

## "§ 153A-98. Privacy of employee personnel records.

- Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 132-6 or any other general law or local act concerning access to public records, personnel files of employees, former employees, or applicants for employment maintained by a county are subject to inspection and may be disclosed only as provided by this section. For purposes of this section, an employee's personnel file consists of any information in any form gathered by the county with respect to that employee and, by way of illustration but not limitation, relating to his application, selection or nonselection, performance, promotions, demotions, transfers, suspension and other disciplinary actions, evaluation forms, leave, salary, and termination of employment. As used in this section, "employee" includes former employees of the county.
  - This section shall apply to all employees subject to G.S. 153A-103. (a1)
- (b) The following information with respect to each county employee is a matter of public record:
  - (1) Name.
  - (2) Age.
  - Date of original employment or appointment to the county service. (3)

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1 2		(4)	The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed or oral, past and current, to the extent that the county has the		
3			or a record of the oral contract in its possession.		
4		(5)	Current position.		
5		(6)	Title.		
6		(7)	Current salary.		
7		(8)	Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with	•	
8 9		(9)	Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, susper or other change in position classification with that county.	-	
10		(10)	Date Subject to subsection (h) of this section, date and gene	-	
11			the reasons for each promotion of the following with that ex	<del>ounty.</del> county:	
12			a. <u>Promotion.</u>		
13			b. <u>Demotion.</u>		
14			<u>c.</u> <u>Transfer.</u>		
15			d. Suspension.		
16			<ul> <li><u>C.</u> Transfer.</li> <li><u>d.</u> Suspension.</li> <li><u>e.</u> Separation.</li> <li>f. Dismissal.</li> </ul>		
17		(4.4)	<del>_</del>		
18		(11)	Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demo		
19			disciplinary reasons taken by the county. If the disciplin	•	
20			dismissal, county, a copy of the written notice of the final		
21			county setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are	e the basis of the	
22		(10)	dismissal.		
23 24		(12)	The office to which the employee is currently assigned.		
24 25	····	Nothi	no in this section shall be construed to outhorize the	lical cours of once	
25 26	(g)		ng in this section shall be construed to authorize the commation protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Acc		
27			110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990		
28	*		licable law.	(ADA), 104 Stat.	
29	(h)		following shall apply to the general descriptions as require	ad by subdivision	
30	$\frac{(11)}{(b)(10)}$ of			a by subdivision	
31	(0)(10) 01	<u>(1)</u>	No general description shall disclose information otherwis	e prohibited from	
32 33		11/	disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "desprohibited by applicable law."	-	
34		<u>(2)</u>	The general description for each promotion, demotion, tra	nefer cuenencion	
35		<u>(2)</u>	separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record		
36			subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration		
37			to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals	-	
38			decision being entered in that administrative appeals proces	-	
39		SECT	FION 7.(b) G.S. 153A-99(b) reads as rewritten:	<u></u>	
40	"(b)		itions. For the purposes of this section:		
41	(0)	(1)	"County employee" or "employee" means any person employee	loved by a county	
42		(-)	or any department or program thereof that is supported, in w		
43			county <del>funds;funds but shall not include employees subject to</del>		
44		(2)	"On duty" means that time period when an employee is eng		
45		` /	of his or her employment; and	, <u>J</u>	
46		(3)	"Workplace" means any place where an employee engages	s in his or her job	
47		` /	duties."	J	
48		SECT	<b>TION 8.</b> G.S. 160A-168 reads as rewritten:		
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"§ 160A-168. Privacy of employee personnel records.

1 2	(b) record:	The following information with respect to each city employee is a matter of public	
3		(1)	Name.
4		(2)	Age.
5		(3)	Date of original employment or appointment to the service.
6		(4)	The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written
7			or oral, past and current, to the extent that the city has the written contract or
8		. <b>-</b> \	a record of the oral contract in its possession.
9		(5)	Current position.
10		(6)	Title.
11 12		(7)	Current salary.
12		(8)	Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with that municipality. Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation,
4		(9)	or other change in position classification with that municipality.
15		(10)	Date Subject to subsection (h) of this section, date and general description of
16		(10)	the reasons for each promotion of the following with that
17			municipality:
18			a. Promotion.
19			b. Demotion.
20			<u>c.</u> <u>Transfer.</u>
21			d. Suspension.
22			<ul><li><u>e.</u> <u>Separation.</u></li><li>f. Dismissal.</li></ul>
23			
24		(11)	Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demotion dismissal for
25			disciplinary reasons taken by the municipality. If the disciplinary action was
26			a dismissal, municipality, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of
27 28			the municipality setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal.
20 29		(12)	The office to which the employee is currently assigned.
30		(12)	The office to which the employee is currently assigned.
31	(g)	Nothi	ng in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any
32			rmation protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
33			110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat.
34	327, or ot	her app	<u>licable law.</u>
35	<u>(h)</u>		Collowing shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision
36	(b)(10) of		
37		<u>(1)</u>	No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from
38			disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action
39		(2)	prohibited by applicable law."
40 41		<u>(2)</u>	The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under
+1 42			subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period
43			to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final
44			decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."
45		SECT	FION 9. G.S. 162A-6.1 reads as rewritten:
16	"§ 162A-		ivacy of employee personnel records.
17			
18	(b)		following information with respect to each authority employee is a matter of
19	public rec		
0		(1)	Name.
51		(2)	Age.

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(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 327, or other applicable law.

(j) The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision (b)(10) of this section:

- (1) No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action prohibited by applicable law."
- The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."

**SECTION 10.** No later than November 30, 2023, each employer affected by this act shall adopt personnel policies to effectuate this act to permit all of its employees to challenge the wording of the general description of any promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal occurring on or after December 1, 2023.

**SECTION 11.** Sections 1 through 9 of this act become effective December 1, 2023, and apply to promotions, demotions, transfers, suspensions, separations, and dismissals occurring on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

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