

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL 403

Short Title: Prohibit Weapons at Voting Place. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Marcus, Mayfield, and Grafstein (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 30, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSSESSION OR CARRYING OF A DANGEROUS WEAPON
3 AT OR WITHIN A CERTAIN DISTANCE OF A VOTING PLACE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 35 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
6 a new section to read:

7 "**§ 14-269.5. Weapons at voting place.**

8 (a) Definition. – For purposes of this section, the term (i) "dangerous weapon" is as
9 defined in G.S. 14-277.2 and (ii) "voting place" is as defined in G.S. 163-165.

10 (b) Prohibition. – Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, it shall be
11 unlawful for any person to possess or carry, whether openly or concealed, any dangerous weapon
12 (i) at a location used as a voting place, (ii) within 100 feet from the door of entrance to a location
13 used as a voting place, or (iii) while in line to vote at a location used as a voting place. The
14 prohibition set forth in this subsection only applies while the location is open and being used as
15 a voting place.

16 (c) Punishment. – Any person who violates the prohibition set forth in subsection (b) of
17 this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

18 (d) Exception. – The prohibition in subsection (b) of this section does not apply to a law
19 enforcement officer acting in discharge of the officer's official duties."

20 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses
21 committed on or after that date.

