A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO ALLOW OPERATION OF CERTAIN BUSINESSES AND RELIGIOUS
ORGANIZATIONS THAT COMPLY WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES
DURING OPERATION AND TO PROVIDE LIMITED LIABILITY PROTECTIONS
FROM VIOLATION OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OR LOCAL PROHIBITION OR
RESTRICTION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 14-288.20A(1) and (2), 166A-19.30(d), and
166A-19.31(h), no criminal liability shall apply to any provision of an executive order issued by
the Governor in response to the COVID-19 emergency or a prohibition or restriction issued by a
city or a county in response to the COVID-19 emergency that restricts the ability of a business
owner or religious organization to operate the owner's business or religious organization if the
owner of the business or religious organization makes reasonable efforts to maintain and enforce
social distancing within the premises of the business or religious organization during operation.

All prosecutions for violation of any provisions described in this section are abated
and no person shall be charged court costs.

SECTION 1.(b) Any business that operates in accordance with subsection (a) of this
section shall not be closed by any law enforcement entity for violation of an executive order if
the business is operating in compliance with subsection (a) of this section.

SECTION 1.(c) Subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not apply to a business
or establishment engaged in providing the use of "video gaming machines," as defined
G.S. 14-306.1A. A business or establishment that provides the use of video gaming machines
along with other goods and services, and that otherwise meets the criteria provided in subsections
(a) and (b) of this section, may operate those portions of its business that do not involve the use
of video gaming machines.

SECTION 1.(d) The maximum civil fine that may be levied against any person who
is liable for a violation referenced in subsection (a) of this section shall be five dollars ($5.00).

SECTION 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
Commerce, the sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020
fiscal year to be used to develop and provide educational materials to businesses and religious
organizations on the provisions of this act.

SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies retroactively to