A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT GUARANTEEING THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF NORTH CAROLINIANS
TO ENJOYMENT OF THE FRUITS OF THEIR OWN LABOR AND THE PURSUIT OF
HAPPINESS BY LIMITING CERTAIN PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF
EXECUTIVE ORDERS AND LOCAL PROHIBITIONS AND ACTIONS BY
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. (a) Notwithstanding G.S. 14-288.20A(2) and G.S. 166A-19.30(d), no
criminal liability shall apply to any person who violates any provision of any of the following:

(1) The following executive orders issued by Governor Roy A. Cooper and
subsequent extensions or amendments to the same:
 b. Executive Order No. 120 issued March 23, 2020.
 c. Executive Order No. 121 issued March 27, 2020.
 d. Executive Order No. 121 issued March 27, 2020.
 e. Executive Order No. 131 issued April 9, 2020.

(2) Any executive order issued by Governor Roy A. Cooper after April 23, 2020,
in response to the COVID-19 emergency and exercising the authority granted
by G.S. 166A-19.30(b)(1) through (b)(3) and G.S. 166A-19.30(c).
All prosecutions for violation of executive orders described in this subsection shall
be abated.

SECTION 1. (b) Notwithstanding G.S. 14-288.20A(1) and G.S. 166A-19.31(h), no
criminal liability shall apply to any person who violates any provision of a prohibition or
restriction issued by a city or a county that mirrors or exceeds the limitations contained in the
executive orders referenced in subsection (a) of this section and that is issued for the same
emergency to which those executive orders apply.
All prosecutions for violation of prohibitions or restrictions described in this
subsection shall be abated.

SECTION 2. The maximum civil fine that may be levied against any person who is
liable for a violation of any local prohibition or restriction referenced in Section 1 of this act shall
be twenty-five dollars ($25.00) for the first violation and one dollar ($1.00) per day for each
subsequent violation. Any funds that are subject to Section 7(a) of Article IX of the North
Carolina Constitution that have already been collected by a county or municipality as a result of
such violation shall be deposited as required by law. The county or municipality shall use other
available funds to refund to the citizen the total collected fine less twenty-five dollars ($25.00)
for the first violation and one dollar ($1.00) per day for each subsequent violation that has
occurred prior to the date of refund.

**SECTION 3.** No occupational licensing board, as that term is defined in
G.S. 93B-1(2), may revoke a license, issue a fine, or take any adverse action against a licensee
on the basis that the licensee has violated any executive order or prohibition or restriction
referenced in Section 1 of this act. Nothing in this section restricts the authority of an
occupational licensing board to otherwise perform its statutory authority to regulate an
occupation.

**SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Secretary of State
the sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to
be used to provide educational materials to the public on the provisions of this act. The Secretary
of State shall consult with State occupational licensing boards in developing the educational
materials and dissemination methods.

**SECTION 5.** Section 4 of this act is effective when it becomes law. The remainder
of this act is effective when it becomes law and applies retroactively to March 17, 2020.