

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 560
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/25

Short Title: Parents Protection Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 31, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO LAWS AFFECTING THE CARE OF
JUVENILES AND THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The title of Article 1 of Subchapter I of Chapter 7B of the General
Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Article 1.

"Purposes; ~~Definitions~~.~~Definitions~~; Limitation."

SECTION 1.(b) Article 1 of Subchapter I of Chapter 7B of the General Statutes is
amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 7B-102. Limitation.

A parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker who raises a juvenile consistent with the juvenile's
biological sex or who refers to a juvenile consistent with the juvenile's biological sex shall not
be subject to a petition supporting abuse or neglect under this Subchapter based solely on those
acts. This section shall not be construed to authorize or allow any other acts or omissions
prohibited by this Subchapter that would constitute abuse or neglect, including abandonment or
the creation of an injurious environment."

SECTION 1.(c) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
petitions filed before, on, or after that date.

SECTION 2.(a) G.S. 48-3-203 reads as rewritten:

"§ 48-3-203. Agency placement adoption.

(a) An agency may acquire legal and physical custody of a minor for purposes of adoptive
placement only by means of a relinquishment pursuant to Part 7 of this Article or by a court order
terminating the rights and duties of a parent or guardian of the minor.

(a1) No agency shall deny or delay (i) the opportunity to become an adoptive parent or (ii)
the placement of a child for adoption on the basis of ~~race~~, any of the following:

(1) Race, color, or national origin of the person or the child involved.

(2) The adoptive parents' refusal, unwillingness, or lack of support to enable the
child to engage in a gender transition.

...."

SECTION 2.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to
petitions and placements for adoption and opportunities to become an adoptive parent requested,
filed, or submitted before, on, or after that date.

SECTION 3.(a) G.S. 131D-10.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 131D-10.1. Foster Care Children's Bill of Rights; purpose.



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(a) It is the policy of this State to strengthen and preserve the family as a unit consistent with a high priority of protecting children's welfare. When a child requires care outside the family unit, it is the duty of the State to assure that the quality of substitute care is as close as possible to the care and nurturing that society expects of a family. However, the State recognizes there are instances when protecting a child's welfare outweighs reunifying the family unit, and as such, the care of residential care facilities providing high quality services that include meeting the children's educational needs as determined by the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services can satisfy the standard of protecting a child's welfare, regardless of the child's age, particularly when the sibling groups can be kept intact. To that end, the General Assembly promotes the following in the provision of foster care:

- (1) A safe foster home free of violence, abuse, neglect, and danger. The act of raising a child in a manner consistent with the child's biological sex, including any related mental health or medical decisions, shall not be considered a violation under this subdivision of violence, abuse, neglect, or danger, as those terms are used in this subdivision.

...

A violation of subdivisions (1) through (11) of this subsection shall not be construed to create a cause of action under this section against the State, the Department of Health and Human Services, or a person or entity providing foster care pursuant to this Article.

(a1) No agency or other State entity shall deny or delay (i) the opportunity to become a foster parent or (ii) the placement of a child in foster care on the basis of ~~race~~, any of the following:

- (1) Race, color, or national origin of the person or the child involved.

- (2) The foster parents' refusal, unwillingness, or lack of support to enable the child to engage in a gender transition.

(b) The purpose of this Article is to assign the authority to protect the health, safety and well-being of children separated from or being cared for away from their families."

SECTION 3.(b) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to placements in foster care and opportunities to become a foster parent requested, filed, or submitted before, on, or after that date.

SECTION 4.(a) G.S. 14-318.2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 14-318.2. Child abuse a misdemeanor.

...

(d) Any parent of a child less than 18 years of age, or any other person providing care to or supervision of the child, is not guilty of a violation of this section for raising a child consistent with the child's biological sex, including referring to a child consistent with the child's biological sex, and making related mental health or medical decisions based on the child's biological sex. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or allow any other acts or omissions that would constitute a violation under this section, including the infliction of serious physical injury or the creation of a substantial risk of physical injury."

SECTION 4.(b) G.S. 14-318.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 14-318.4. Child abuse a felony.

...

(c1) Any parent of a child less than 18 years of age, or any other person providing care to or supervision of the child, is not guilty of a violation of this section for raising a child consistent with the child's biological sex, including referring to a child consistent with the child's biological sex, and making related mental health or medical decisions based on the child's biological sex. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or allow any other acts or omissions that would constitute a violation under this section, including the infliction of serious bodily injury or serious physical injury.

(d) The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Serious bodily injury. – Bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results in prolonged hospitalization.

(2) Serious physical injury. – Physical injury that causes great pain and suffering. The term includes serious mental injury. For purposes of this subdivision, a parent raising a child consistent with the child's biological sex does not constitute serious mental injury."

SECTION 4.(c) This section becomes effective July 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed before, on, or after that date.

SECTION 5. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.