

Editor's Preface

The 2002 edition of *North Carolina Legislation* is the thirty-ninth periodic summary of legislation published by the UNC Chapel Hill School of Government's Institute of Government. From 1955 through 1973 these summaries were published in a special issue of *Popular Government*. Since 1974 the summary has been published annually as a separate publication.

North Carolina Legislation 2002 is a comprehensive summary of legislation enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly. It is intended to cover all legislation of interest and importance to state and local government officials. The book is organized by subject matter and divided into twenty-three chapters. In some instances, to provide different emphases or points of view, the same legislation is discussed in more than one chapter. With two exceptions, School of Government faculty members with expertise in the particular fields wrote each chapter in this book. The two exceptions are Chapter 12, "Information Technology," which was written in part by staff members of the North Carolina League of Municipalities and the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and Chapter 23, "State Taxation," which was written by members of the General Assembly's professional staff.

The text of all bills discussed in this book may be viewed on the Internet at the General Assembly's Web site: <http://www.ncleg.net>. This site also includes a detailed legislative history of all action taken on each bill and, for some bills, a summary of the fiscal impact of the bill.

While comprehensive, this book does not summarize every legislative enactment of the 2002 General Assembly. For example, some important topics that do not have a substantial impact on state or local governments, such as business regulation or insurance, are not discussed at all. Local legislation of importance to a single jurisdiction often is given only brief coverage. Readers who need information on public bills not covered in this book may wish to consult *Summaries of Substantive Ratified Legislation, 2002 General Assembly*, which contains brief summaries of all public laws enacted during the 2002 session. That compilation is published by the General Assembly's Research Division and is posted on the Internet at the General Assembly's Web site. A list of General Statutes affected by 2002 legislation, prepared by the General Assembly's Bill Drafting Division, is also online at the same site.

The Institute of Government also publishes two separate reports, *Final Disposition of Bills* and the *Index of Legislation*, that provide additional information with respect to public and private bills considered in 2002. These publications can be purchased through the Institute's Publications Sales Office (telephone: 919.966.4119; e-mail: sales@iogmail.iog.unc.edu).

Each day that the General Assembly is in session, the Institute's Legislative Reporting Service publishes the *Daily Bulletin*. It includes summaries written by Institute of Government faculty members of every bill and resolution introduced in the state House and Senate, summaries of all amendments and committee substitutes adopted by the House and Senate, and a daily report of all action taken on the floor of both chambers relative to legislation. The *Daily Bulletin* is available by paid subscription, with delivery via U.S. mail, fax, or e-mail. For information on subscriptions, contact the Institute's Publications Sales Office (telephone: 919. 966.4119; e-mail: sales@iogmail.iog.unc.edu).

Throughout this book, references to legislation enacted during the 2002 legislative session are cited by the Session Law number of the act (for example S.L. 2002-126), followed by a parenthetical reference to the number of the Senate or House bill (for example S 1115) that was enacted. As a general matter, the effective date of new legislation is not noted if it is prior to the production date of this book. References to the General Statutes of North Carolina are abbreviated as G.S. (for example, G.S. 105-374).

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