

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 655

Short Title: State Implicit Bias Training Initiative. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Waddell (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 7, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR
3 STATE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 120-32 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 120-32. Commission duties.**

7 (a) The Legislative Services Commission is authorized to:

8 ...

9 (b) The Legislative Services Commission shall implement an annual training program on
10 implicit bias for legislators and legislative employees to help them recognize implicit bias,
11 understand the root of implicit biases, and become skilled in ways to counter implicit bias that
12 impacts interactions, activities, and decision making in the legislative workplace. The implicit
13 bias training program shall include both in-person training and remote on-demand components
14 to maximize availability and effectiveness. The annual implicit bias training shall be mandatory
15 for all legislators and legislative employees."

16 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 126-4 reads as rewritten:

17 "**§ 126-4. Powers and duties of State Human Resources Commission.**

18 Subject to the approval of the Governor, the State Human Resources Commission shall
19 establish policies and rules governing each of the following:

20 ...

21 (20) Establishing an annual training program on implicit bias to be implemented
22 by State agencies to help employees recognize implicit bias, understand the
23 root of implicit biases, and become skilled in ways to counter implicit bias
24 that impacts interactions, activities, and decision making in the State
25 government workplace. The implicit bias training program shall include both
26 in-person training and remote on-demand components to maximize its
27 availability and effectiveness throughout State government. Annual implicit
28 bias training shall be established as a mandatory requirement for all State
29 employees.

30"

31 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 126-5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

32 "(c17) The annual implicit bias training requirements adopted by the State Human Resources
33 Commission pursuant to G.S. 126-4(20) shall apply to all State employees, including employees
34 of the judicial branch, the Council of State agencies, and The University of North Carolina."

35 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

