

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 85

Short Title: Regulate Body Piercing in North Carolina. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hanig (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

February 13, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERMIT REQUIREMENT FOR BODY PIERCING AND
3 REQUIRING THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO ADOPT RULES
4 ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING INITIAL AND RENEWAL
5 BODY PIERCING PERMITS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** Article 8 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by
8 adding a new Part to read:

9 "Part 11A. Body Piercing Regulated.

10 **"§ 130A-283.10. Body piercing regulated.**

11 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this Part:

12 (1) Body piercing. – The act of piercing of any part of the body of another person,
13 other than their ears, for the purpose of allowing the insertion of earrings,
14 jewelry, or similar objects into the body, through puncturing by use of a needle
15 or any other method.

16 (2) Body piercing establishment. – Any location or part of a location where body
17 piercing is conducted.

18 (b) Prohibited Practice; Exemption. – No person shall engage in body piercing without
19 first obtaining a body piercing permit from the Department. Each person who obtains a permit to
20 practice body piercing under this section shall post the permit in a conspicuous location at the
21 body piercing establishment. Licensed physicians, as well as physician assistants and nurse
22 practitioners working under the supervision of a licensed physician, who perform body piercing
23 within the normal course of their professional practice are exempt from the requirements of this
24 Part.

25 (c) Permits. – To obtain a body piercing permit, a person shall apply to the Department
26 on forms prescribed by the Department. Upon receipt of the application, the Department, acting
27 through the local health department, shall inspect the premises, instruments, utensils, equipment,
28 and procedures of the applicant to determine whether the applicant meets the requirements for a
29 body piercing permit established by the Commission pursuant to G.S. 130A-29(c). If the
30 applicant meets these requirements, the Department shall issue a permit to the applicant. A permit
31 is valid for one year and shall be renewed annually by applying to the Department on forms
32 prescribed by the Department for a permit renewal.

33 (d) Adverse Actions on Permits; Appeals. – The Department may deny an application for
34 a body piercing permit if an applicant does not meet the requirements established by the
35 Commission for obtaining a permit. The Department may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a
36 permit if it finds that body piercing is being performed in violation of this Part. In accordance



1 with G.S. 130A-24(a), Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, the Administrative Procedure Act,
2 governs appeals concerning the enforcement of this Part.

3 (e) Limitation. – Compliance with this Part is not a bar to prosecution for a violation of
4 G.S. 14-400."

5 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-29(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

6 "(12) Establishing requirements to obtain and renew a body piercing permit under
7 Part 11A of Article 8 of this Chapter. The rules shall include requirements for
8 the sanitation of premises, utensils, equipment, and procedures to be used by
9 a person engaged in body piercings."

10 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective on the date that rules adopted
11 pursuant to G.S. 130A-29(c)(12), as enacted by Section 2 of this act, become effective. The
12 Codifier of Rules shall notify the Revisor of Statutes of the effective date of rules adopted
13 pursuant to Section 2 of this act. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.