

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 965
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/4/24

Short Title: UNC Intrastate Athletic Competition.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 2, 2024

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ELIGIBLE CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY
3 OF NORTH CAROLINA TO REGULARLY COMPETE AGAINST ONE ANOTHER IN
4 FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL.

5 Whereas, sports tourism is vital to the economy of North Carolina, and intrastate
6 collegiate athletics generates millions of dollars in economic impact to the State; and

7 Whereas, it is the priority of the General Assembly to encourage intrastate collegiate
8 athletics rivalries in order to promote economic development; Now, therefore,
9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 SECTION 1. Part 3 of Article 1 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended
11 by adding a new section to read:

12 "**§ 116-40.14. Intrastate athletic competition.**

13 (a) Purpose. – The purpose of this section is to ensure that eligible constituent institutions
14 of The University of North Carolina regularly compete against one another in eligible sports.

15 (b) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

16 (1) Eligible constituent institution. – A constituent institution of The University
17 of North Carolina that fields a high-level football team.

18 (2) Eligible sport. – All of the following:

19 a. Football.

20 b. Men's basketball.

21 c. Women's basketball.

22 (3) High-enrollment institution. – An eligible constituent institution with a
23 full-time equivalent enrollment in the fall semester of the 2023-2024 academic
24 year of 30,000 or more undergraduate and graduate students.

25 (4) High-level football team. – A football team that competes in the Football Bowl
26 Subdivision (FBS) of Division I competition of the National Collegiate
27 Athletic Association or a successor grouping that represents the highest level
28 of intercollegiate football competition in the United States.

29 (5) Home game. – A game held at a site selected by the hosting constituent
30 institution, including a neutral site.

31 (c) Competition Required. – A high-enrollment institution shall do all of the following in
32 each eligible sport:

33 (1) Every academic year, play at least one home or one away game against (i)
34 another high-enrollment institution and (ii) an eligible constituent institution
35 that is not a high-enrollment institution.



- 1 (2) Every six academic years, play at least one home and one away game against
- 2 each eligible constituent institution that is not a high-enrollment institution.
- 3 (3) A high-enrollment institution shall alternate home and away games that are
- 4 scheduled against the same eligible constituent institution that is not a
- 5 high-enrollment institution."

6 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors
7 of The University of North Carolina the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring
8 funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to inform eligible constituent institutions and members of the
9 public about the intrastate athletic competition required by G.S. 116-40.14, as enacted by this
10 act.

11 **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2024. Except as
12 otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the
13 2025-2026 academic year.