

## The Big Picture

- Drafting of Bills:** Bills can be drafted by any “competent” person, most likely working within the General Assembly. However, a legislator must turn in any drafted legislation to one of two different offices for consideration.
- Introduction of Bills:** A member of the General Assembly must introduce the bill. If the bill is being “introduced,” it means that it has already been filed with the Principal Clerk on the previous workday, at which time it received a bill number. When the Reading Clerk reads aloud the name and number, the bill has passed its **first reading**.
- Reference to Committee:** The appropriate committee will study the bill and recommend what happens next. If approved, the bill is placed on the calendar for consideration by the entire House or Senate. Amendments can be added both in committee and when it comes up for debate on the floor.
- Consideration by First House:** If the vote is favorable in the house in which the bill was introduced, it has passed its **second reading** and moves to its **third and final reading**.
- Consideration by Second House:** After a bill passes its third reading in the house in which it was introduced, it is sent to the other house where it goes through the exact same process (referred to committee, etc.)
- Enrollment, Ratification and Publication:** After a bill passes both houses, it is **enrolled**. The Governor may sign the bill into law or veto it. Both houses must have a 3/5 vote to override the veto. Once it becomes a law, it is **published**.

## How do I track a particular bill?

- Go to the General Assembly’s <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/>
- In the top right corner you should see some boxes to search that look like this:



The screenshot shows a search interface with four rows of search boxes, each with a 'Go' button to its right:

- FULL SITE SEARCH:** type search criteria
- SEARCH BILL TEXT:** 2013-2014 Session (dropdown) type search criteria
- FIND A BILL:** 2013-2014 Session (dropdown) enter bill # (e.g., S253)
- VIEW MEMBER INFO:** Select a member... (dropdown)

Below the search boxes is a navigation bar with four buttons: LEGISLATION/BILLS, REDISTRICTING, WHO REPRESENTS ME?, and CITIZEN GUIDE.

- In the box that says “FIND A BILL” type in the bill#. You must put an **S** in front of the number if it is a Senate bill and an **H** in front of the number if it is a House bill! For instance: H1119 for “Credit for School Supplies Bill”

FULL SITE SEARCH: type search criteria	Go
SEARCH BILL TEXT: 2013-2014 Session ▼ type search criteria	Go
FIND A BILL: 2013-2014 Session ▼ <u>H1119</u>	Go
VIEW MEMBER INFO: Select a member...	Go

LEGISLATION/BILLS   REDISTRICTING   WHO REPRESENTS ME?   CITIZEN GUIDE

4. When you hit “go” to search a particular bill, it should pull up a page that looks like this:

PRINTABLE VERSION

House Bill 1119

**Credit for School Supplies.**

2013-2014 Session

Bill Text	Fiscal Note	Last Action:
Filed [HTML]		Ref to the Com on Education, if favorable, Finance on 05/20/2014
Edition 1 [HTML]	HFN1119v1	<b>Sponsors:</b> Malone; (Primary) Baskerville; L. Bell; Brandon; R. Brawley; B. Brown; Cotham; Cunningham; Dobson; Elmore; Faircloth; Farmer-Butterfield; Fisher; Ford; Gill; Glazier; C. Graham; G. Graham; D. Hall; Hamilton; Hanes; Harrison; Holley; Hurley; Iler; Insko; Jackson; Jones; Lambeth; Lucas; S. Martin; McGrady; McNeill; Moffitt; R. Moore; Murry; Pierce; Pittman; Ramsey; Reives; Richardson; Riddell; S. Ross; Shepard; Speciale; Tine; Waddell; Warren; Whitmire; Wray;
		<b>Attributes:</b> Public;
		<b>Counties:</b> No counties specifically cited
		<b>Statutes:</b> 105 (Chapter); 105-151.34 (Section)
		<b>Keywords:</b> EDUCATION, OCCUPATIONS, PUBLIC, STATE EMPLOYEES, TAX CREDITS, TAXATION, TAXES, INDIVIDUAL INCOME, TEACHERS

History 				
↓ Date	Chamber	Action	Documents	Vote
05/15/2014	House	Filed	DRH40161-MC-202	
05/20/2014	House	Passed 1st Reading		
05/20/2014	House	Ref to the Com on Education, if favorable, Finance		

Note: a bill listed on this website is not law until passed by the House and the Senate, ratified, and, if required, signed by the Governor.

5. On the bill’s page, you can find a lot of different information, such as sponsors and keywords. This page should also show the *history* of the bill. That section will look like this:

History 				
↓ Date	Chamber	Action	Documents	Vote
05/15/2014	House	Filed	DRH40161-MC-202	
05/20/2014	House	Passed 1st Reading		
05/20/2014	House	Ref to the Com on Education, if favorable, Finance		

6. You will also see on this page a box labeled **Bill Text**. Here you can click on links that will take you to the first **filed** version of the bill and later editions, as amendments and changes are made. This box looks like this:

Bill Text	Fiscal Note
Filed [HTML]	
Edition 1 [HTML]	HFN1119v1

7. Finally, when you click on any version of the bill (as discussed in step 6), you will see a document that looks like this:

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2013	
H	I
HOUSE BILL 1119	
Short Title:	Credit for School Supplies. (Public)
Sponsors:	Representative Malone (Primary Sponsor). <i>For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.</i>
Referred to:	Education, if favorable, Finance.
May 20, 2014	
1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO PROVIDE TEACHERS WHO PURCHASE CERTAIN SCHOOL SUPPLIES
3	AND MATERIALS AN INCOME TAX CREDIT.
4	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5	<b>SECTION 1.</b> Part 2 of Article 4 of Subchapter I of Chapter 105 of the General
6	Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:
7	"§ 105-151.34. <b>Teacher credit for school supplies.</b>
8	(a) Credit. – A taxpayer who is a classroom teacher and who purchases school supplies
9	or school instructional materials for use in the classroom is eligible for a credit against the tax
10	imposed by this Part equal to the lesser of the cost of the supplies or materials purchased or two
11	hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00).
12	(b) Limitation. – The credit allowed under this section may not exceed the amount of
13	tax imposed by this Part for the taxable year reduced by the sum of all credits allowable, except
14	tax payment made by or on behalf of the taxpayer.
15	(c) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:
16	(1) Classroom teacher. – Any of the following individuals whose major
17	responsibility is classroom instruction:

For a more detailed version of the lawmaking process, go to:  
<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/NCGAInfo/Bill-Law/bill-law.html>

*Last revised February 1, 2016*