

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 701

Short Title: Read the Constitution Mandate. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Riddell, Brody, Ward, and Cleveland (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: State Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 19, 2023

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO READ THE  
STATE AND FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONS PRIOR TO TAKING THE OATH OF  
OFFICE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 11-7 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 11-7. Oath or affirmation to support Constitutions; all officers to take.**

Every member of the General Assembly and every person elected or appointed to hold any office of trust or profit in the State shall, before taking office or entering upon the execution of the office, (i) read or affirm having read within the past 12 months both the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this State and (ii) take and subscribe to the following oath:

"I, \_\_\_\_\_, do solemnly and sincerely swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States; that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of North Carolina, and to the constitutional powers and authorities which are or may be established for the government thereof; and that I will endeavor to support, maintain and defend the Constitution of said State, not inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States, to the best of my knowledge and ability; so help me God."

**SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to oaths administered on or after that date.

