

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 965

Short Title: UNC Intrastate Athletic Competition. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Willis, Pickett, Saine, and Johnson (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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

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 and women's basketball.

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

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

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

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

33 (2) Every six academic years, play at least one home and one away game against  
34 each eligible constituent institution that is not a high-enrollment institution. A  
35 high-enrollment institution shall alternate home and away games that are



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1                   scheduled against the same eligible constituent institution that is not a  
2                   high-enrollment institution."  
3                   **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors  
4 of The University of North Carolina the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring  
5 funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to inform eligible constituent institutions and members of the  
6 public about the intrastate athletic competition required by G.S. 116-40.14, as enacted by this  
7 act.  
8                   **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2024. Except as  
9 otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the  
10 2025-2026 academic year.