



COUNTY OF CURRITUCK

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTIES OF BEAUFORT, BRUNSWICK, CARTERET, CRAVEN, CURRITUCK, DARE, HYDE, NEW HANOVER, AND PAMLICO REQUESTING GOVERNOR JOSH STEIN AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO WAIVE ALL TOLLS AND FEES AFFECTING NORTH CAROLINA FERRY ROUTES FOR LOCALLY REGISTERED VEHICLES

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 257, the 2025 Appropriations Act, amends Article 6 of Chapter 136 of the North Carolina General Statutes to impose tolls on all ferry routes in North Carolina and to increase tolls on currently existing ferry routes according to route destination and vehicle size; and

WHEREAS, ferries serve as the primary, and in some cases exclusive, highways and bridges for the residents, commuters, and emergency services of eastern North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, New Hanover, and Pamlico counties rely on these state-maintained marine corridors daily to access employment, medical care, education, and essential goods; and

WHEREAS, mainland residents of North Carolina enjoy free, un-tolled access to state-maintained roads, highways, and bridges funded by the general tax base to which coastal residents also contribute; and

WHEREAS, imposing additional transit fees on local citizens simply because they reside in a coastal region creates an unfair system of double taxation; and

WHEREAS, the financial burden of new or increased tolls will disproportionately harm local working families, small businesses, and fixed-income retirees who have no viable alternative transit routes; and

WHEREAS, a fair and equitable solution must distinguish between daily local commuters who utilize the ferry system as an essential highway and seasonal tourism traffic that utilizes the system for recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Boards of Commissioners of the Counties of Beaufort, Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Hyde, New Hanover, and Pamlico, North Carolina, that:

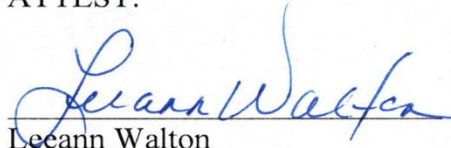
1. **The member counties strongly request** all Tolls and Fees affecting North Carolina Ferry Routes be waived for all vehicles registered in counties with Ferry Terminals.

2. **The member counties humbly urge** the Honorable Governor Josh Stein and the North Carolina Department of Transportation to waive all Tolls or Fees for Vehicles registered in counties with Ferry Terminals and to create a permanent waiver exempting all locally registered personal and commercial vehicles from ferry tolls.
3. **The member counties request** that any necessary state revenue adjustments focus strictly on non-resident, seasonal tourism traffic rather than penalizing local citizens.

ADOPTED this the 3rd day of September, 2026.


S. Paul O'Neal, Chairman
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:



Lecann Walton
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners

