



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

November 30, 2021

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 240

FLEXIBILITY REGARDING CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING COURSES

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the undersigned issued Executive Order No. 116, 34 N.C. Reg. 1744-1749 (April 1, 2020), which declared a State of Emergency to coordinate the state's response and protective actions to address the Coronavirus Disease 2019 ("COVID-19") public health emergency and provide for the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors located in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States issued an emergency declaration for all states, tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia, retroactive to March 1, 2020, and the President declared that the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States constitutes a national emergency; and

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, the President approved a Major Disaster Declaration, FEMA-4487-DR, for the State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 2021, the President issued notice that the national emergency relating to COVID-19 must remain in effect because the pandemic "continues to cause significant risk to the public health and safety of the Nation"; and

WHEREAS, in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and for the purpose of protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the people of North Carolina, the undersigned has issued Executive Order Nos. 116-122, 124-125, 129-131, 133-136, 138-144, 146-153, 155-157, 161-165, 169-173, 176-177, 180-181, 183-185, 188-193, 195, 197-198, 200, 204-207, 209-212, 215-217, 219-221, 224-225, 228, 232, 234, 236, and 238-239; and

WHEREAS, more than one million five hundred thirty-four thousand (1,534,000) people in North Carolina have had COVID-19, and over eighteen thousand seven hundred (18,700) people in North Carolina have died from the disease; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to infect thousands of North Carolinians every day, and a State of Emergency remains in place for the purpose of maintaining the state's ability to meet challenges presented by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the State of Emergency allows North Carolina to, among other flexibilities afforded to the state to address the COVID-19 pandemic, provide increased regulatory flexibility to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (“NCDHHS”) and health care facilities, which allows health care providers to expand their capacity to treat patients and assist with vaccination efforts; and to respond to any spikes in spread of the disease; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned has taken a science and data-driven approach to implementing public health measures to curb the spread of the virus and to advance the state’s economy in a safe and effective way, which is in the best interests of all North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS, as COVID-19 has continued to be spread from person to person across the United States and world, variants (genetically distinct strains) of COVID-19 have developed; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant of COVID-19 is more transmissible than the original COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, because the Delta variant is more contagious than the original virus or other current COVID-19 variants, it quickly became the most common kind of COVID-19 in North Carolina during summer 2021, and now, the Delta variant makes up more than ninety-five percent (95%) of all new COVID-19 cases in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Delta variant’s growing dominance, coupled with its increased transmissibility, led to a significant increase in the number of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in summer and early fall 2021, particularly among the unvaccinated; and

WHEREAS, new variants of the virus continue to develop, including, most recently, the Omicron variant, which has been labeled a “variant of concern” by the World Health Organization, and which has a greater risk of transmissibility than the original COVID-19 variant, according to preliminary evidence; and

WHEREAS, in this State of Emergency, it is critical that law enforcement officers be able to protect the public, perform or facilitate emergency services, and fulfill emergency directives from the government; and

WHEREAS, many law enforcement training courses have had to be suspended or postponed to slow the spread of COVID-19 and to protect instructors and trainees; and

WHEREAS, in the event of a suspension or postponement, current administrative rules would cause progress to be lost in courses governed by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs’ Education and Training Standards Commission; and

WHEREAS, this loss of progress could jeopardize law enforcement officers’ certification and reduce the number of law enforcement officers available at a time of great need; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs’ Education and Training Standards Commission have requested the flexibility to waive or modify the requirements that would cause progress to be lost; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 228, issued with the concurrence of the Council of State, previously extended flexibility to the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs’ Education and Training Standards Commission to waive or modify certain requirements, but this flexibility has since lapsed; and

WHEREAS, for the reasons set forth herein, the undersigned has determined that the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs’ Education and Training Standards Commission should continue to have flexibility,

through the effective period of this Executive Order, to waive or modify the requirements that would cause progress to be lost; and

Statutory Authority and Determinations

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 116 invoked the Emergency Management Act, and authorizes the undersigned to exercise the powers and duties set forth therein to direct and aid in the response to, recovery from, and mitigation against emergencies; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.10(b)(2), the undersigned may make, amend, or rescind necessary orders, rules, and regulations within the limits of the authority conferred upon the Governor in the Emergency Management Act; and

WHEREAS, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.10(b)(3) authorizes and empowers the undersigned to delegate any Gubernatorial vested authority under the Emergency Management Act and to provide for the subdelegation of any authority; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.10(b)(7), the officers and personnel of the departments, offices, and agencies of the state and its political subdivisions are required to cooperate with the undersigned and extend their services to the undersigned so that they can be utilized upon request; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(a)(1), the undersigned may utilize all available state resources as reasonably necessary to cope with an emergency, including the transfer and direction of personnel or functions of state agencies or units thereof for the purpose of performing or facilitating emergency services; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(b)(4), the undersigned, with the concurrence of the Council of State, may waive a provision of any regulation or ordinance of a state agency which restricts the immediate relief of human suffering; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30(b)(5), the undersigned, with the concurrence of the Council of State, may perform and exercise other such functions, powers and duties as are necessary to promote and secure the safety and protection of the civilian population; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned has sought and obtained concurrence from the Council of State consistent with the Governor's emergency powers authority in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.30.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of North Carolina, and for the reasons set forth herein, **IT IS ORDERED**:

Section 1. Extending Time to Complete Criminal Justice Training Courses

For the reasons and pursuant to the authority set forth above, the undersigned orders as follows:

- A. **Basic Law Enforcement Training courses**. The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission may, in its discretion, waive or modify the requirement under 12 N.C. Admin. Code 09B .0202(b)(2) that the Basic Law Enforcement Training ("BLET") course be delivered "during consecutive calendar weeks, except that there may be as many as three (3) one-week breaks until course requirements are completed." This authorization applies to any BLET course that was in progress or commenced after November 1, 2021.
- B. **Detention Officer Certification courses**. The North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission may, in its discretion, waive or modify the requirement under 12 N.C. Admin. Code 10B .0704(a)(1)(A) that the Detention Officer Certification course be delivered "during consecutive calendar weeks." This authorization applies to any course that was in progress or commenced after November 1, 2021.

- C. **Other courses and individual trainees.** The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission and the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission may, in their discretion, waive or modify all other requirements in Title 12, Chapters 9 and 10 of the North Carolina Administrative Code related to the "consecutive" week requirement for courses, or the excused absence limit for individual trainees. This authorization applies to any course that was in progress or commenced after November 1, 2021.

Section 2. No Private Right of Action

This Executive Order is not intended to create, and does not create, any individual right, privilege, or benefit, whether substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party against the State of North Carolina, its agencies, departments, political subdivisions, or other entities, or any officers, employees, or agents thereof, or any emergency management worker (as defined in N.C. Gen. Stat. § 166A-19.60) or any other person.

Section 3. Savings Clause

If any provision of this Executive Order or its application to any person or circumstances is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, this invalidity does not affect any other provision or application of this Executive Order, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. To achieve this purpose, the provisions of this Executive Order are declared to be severable.

Section 4. Distribution

I hereby order that this Executive Order be: (1) distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (2) promptly filed with the Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, the Secretary of State, and the superior court clerks in the counties to which it applies, unless the circumstances of the State of Emergency would prevent or impede such filing; and (3) distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this Executive Order.

Section 5. Effective Date

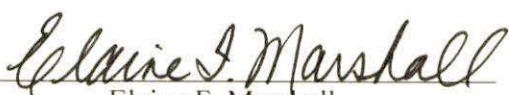
This Executive Order is effective immediately. This Executive Order shall remain in effect through February 28, 2022, unless repealed, replaced, or rescinded by another applicable Executive Order. An Executive Order rescinding the Declaration of the State of Emergency will automatically rescind this Executive Order, provided, however, that waivers and modifications issued pursuant to Section 1 of this Executive Order for courses that commenced during the State of Emergency shall remain in effect for the duration of that course, unless explicitly rescinded or superseded by another applicable Executive Order, regardless of whether this Executive Order remains in effect or the State of Emergency is rescinded.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in the City of Raleigh, this 30th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-one.



Roy Cooper
Governor

ATTEST:



Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State

