



**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**SENATOR PHILIP E. BERGER**

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

NORTH CAROLINA SENATE

September 19, 2025

The Honorable Jeff Jackson  
Attorney General of North Carolina  
114 West Edenton Street  
Raleigh, N.C. 27603

RE: Litigation Status Report for North Carolina Death Row Inmates

Dear Attorney General Jackson,

As you are aware, there are currently 122 inmates on death row in North Carolina. An execution has not been carried out since August 2006. The longest-serving inmate, convicted and sentenced in 1985, has now been on death row for 40 years.

While I recognize some of these inmates may have unresolved claims under the now-repealed Racial Justice Act, pending appeals, or other ongoing legal challenges, the public deserves a clear explanation for the prolonged suspension in executing the sentences imposed by our courts. Over the past two decades, North Carolina's death row population has remained largely stagnant — declining not through executions, but primarily through natural deaths and, most controversially, through Gov. Roy Cooper's commutation of the sentences of 15 convicted murderers.

The process of investigating, prosecuting, and securing convictions in capital cases requires significant resources. When death sentences are not carried out, these resources — as well as the ongoing costs of housing these inmates — impose an unnecessary burden on taxpayers. More broadly, the extended delay in carrying out lawful death sentences erodes the public's confidence in our criminal justice system, particularly given that the death penalty remains legal in North Carolina.

For these reasons, I am requesting a comprehensive update on the status of the cases of all inmates awaiting execution in North Carolina, including pending appeals, legal challenges, scheduled execution dates, and other relevant case developments. With this update, please provide the status of any litigation which may be affecting these cases.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Senator Phil Berger, written in a cursive style.

Senator Phil Berger