

North Carolina FreeEnterprise Foundation

2023-2024

LEGISLATIVE

BUSINESS RATINGS



North Carolina
FreeEnterprise
Foundation



OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS RATINGS

The Legislative Business Ratings (LBR) are the cornerstone product of the North Carolina FreeEnterprise Foundation (NCFREE). These ratings equip business leaders, the media, and the public with a tool to assess whether a lawmaker is generally favorable towards free enterprise or not.

Methodology: A lawmaker's LBR score comprises three components:

1. **Objective Component:** Evaluates how each lawmaker voted on free enterprise legislation.
2. **Subjective Component:** Surveys free enterprise leaders with extensive knowledge of the legislature, including business leaders, trade association executives, and government affairs professionals.
3. **Bill Sponsorship Component:** Assesses the net number of bills a lawmaker sponsored that favor free enterprise.

The formula is as follows:

$$\left[\frac{(2 \cdot OS) + (SS)}{3} \right] + .25 \cdot B$$

OS: 2023-24 Objective Score

SS: 2023-24 Subjective Score

B: Net # of Key Bill Primary Sponsorships



METHODOLOGY

Objective Component:

The NCFREE Research Committee is formed by NCFREE's Board of Directors and consists of free enterprise government affairs professionals and business leaders. The Committee convened multiple times following the 2023 Long Session and 2024 Short Session and chose legislation that had significant impact on North Carolina's free enterprise system. Bills and amendments that were both favorable and unfavorable to free enterprise were chosen and scored accordingly.

Lawmakers who voted in line with the pro-free enterprise position receive a score of 100 points per bill; those who voted against it receive 0 points. This year, the Committee evaluated 25 bills for the state Senate and 28 bills for the state House, including bills from both the 2023 Long Session and the 2024 Short Session. Bill scores are averaged for each lawmaker and constitute the "Objective" component of the LBR score.

Subjective Component:

For this component, free enterprise leaders, including business executives, trade associations, and government affairs professionals, rate lawmakers on a scale of 0 to 100. This rating reflects the percentage of time survey respondents felt the lawmaker was generally supportive of issues crucial to North Carolina's business climate. The survey provided the following options: "NO OPINION," "0%," "10%," "20%," "30%," "40%," "50%," "60%," "70%," "80%," "90%," and "100%." Responses are averaged for each lawmaker and constitute the "Subjective" component of the LBR score.

Bill Sponsorship Component:

This is the smallest of the three components. Lawmakers receive a 0.25-point increase (or decrease) to their scores for each bill they were the primary sponsor of that is included in the LBR. Lawmakers who sponsored anti-free enterprise bills or amendments had 0.25 points deducted for each. Those who sponsored pro-free enterprise bills had 0.25 points added for each. Only bills that received committee hearings were considered. Points are totaled for each lawmaker and constitute the "Bill Sponsorship" component of the LBR score. Lawmakers only receive credit for sponsoring any given bill once, even if it is scored multiple times (eg. Third Reading and a Veto Override).

Additional notes on methodology:

Although LBR scores are only displayed to one decimal place, in the event of a tie, further decimal places are considered, but not displayed. This is why some members will have seemingly the same score but one will be ranked over the other. In the event of an exact tie (carried out to many decimal places), there are no tie breakers.

NC SENATE CHAMBER

2023-2024 LBR SCORES

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
26	Rockingham	Phil Berger	R	100.0	99.4
48	Henderson	Timothy D. Moffitt	R	100.0	99.3
9	Sampson	Brent Jackson	R	100.0	99.3
34	Cabarrus	Paul Newton	R	100.0	99.3
8	Brunswick	Bill Rabon	R	100.0	99.3
3	Currituck	Bobby Hanig	R	100.0	99.1
47	Mitchell	Ralph Hise	R	100.0	99.0
10	Johnston	Benton G. Sawrey	R	100.0	98.9
7	New Hanover	Michael V. Lee	R	100.0	98.6
2	Lenoir	Jim Perry	R	100.0	98.6
35	Union	Todd Johnson	R	100.0	98.5
29	Randolph	David W. Craven, Jr.	R	100.0	98.5
4	Wilson	Buck Newton	R	100.0	98.2

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
25	Alamance	Amy S. Galey	R	100.0	98.2
6	Onslow	Michael A. Lazzara	R	100.0	98.0
11	Nash	Lisa S. Barnes	R	100.0	98.0
24	Robeson	Danny Earl Britt, Jr.	R	100.0	97.8
45	Catawba	Dean Proctor	R	100.0	97.6
37	Iredell	Vickie Sawyer	R	100.0	97.2
50	Macon	Kevin Corbin	R	100.0	97.0
30	Davidson	Steve Jarvis	R	96.0	96.7
43	Gaston	Brad Overcash	R	96.0	96.6
1	Pamlico	Norman W. Sanderson	R	96.0	96.1
36	Wilkes	Eddie D. Settle	R	96.0	96.1
31	Forsyth	Joyce Krawiec	R	96.0	95.9
21	Moore	Tom McInnis	R	95.8	95.7
33	Rowan	Carl Ford	R	96.0	95.4
46	Burke	Warren Daniel	R	96.0	95.0

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
44	Cleveland	W. Ted Alexander	R	96.0	94.9
12	Harnett	Jim Burgin	R	95.8	94.3
32	Forsyth	Paul A. Lowe, Jr.	D	57.1	57.8
22	Durham	Mike Woodard	D	50.0	52.8
5	Pitt	Kandie D. Smith	D	45.0	42.4
14	Wake	Dan Blue	D	38.1	42.1
18	Granville	Mary Wills Bode	D	36.0	38.7
17	Wake	Sydney Batch	D	33.3	33.9
16	Wake	Gale Adcock	D	29.2	33.4
40	Mecklenburg	Joyce Waddell	D	40.0	33.3
42	Mecklenburg	Rachel Hunt	D	33.3	28.3
15	Wake	Jay J. Chaudhuri	D	30.0	27.1
28	Guilford	Gladys A. Robinson	D	31.6	26.7
19	Cumberland	Val Applewhite	D	20.0	22.1

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
49	Buncombe	Julie Mayfield	D	20.0	18.3
38	Mecklenburg	Mujtaba Mohammed	D	16.7	18.2
27	Guilford	Michael Garrett	D	18.8	18.1
39	Mecklenburg	DeAndrea Salvador	D	17.6	17.8
13	Wake	Lisa Grafstein	D	16.7	15.2
20	Durham	Natalie S. Murdock	D	15.0	14.9
23	Orange	Graig Meyer	D	18.2	14.8
41	Mecklenburg	Natasha R. Marcus	D	15.8	12.9

NC HOUSE CHAMBER

2023-2024 LBR SCORES

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
87	Caldwell	Destin Hall	R	100.0	99.7
97	Lincoln	Jason Saine	R	100.0	99.7
98	Mecklenburg	John R. Bradford, III	R	100.0	99.4
37	Wake	Erin Pare	R	100.0	99.0
7	Franklin	Matthew Winslow	R	100.0	99.0
55	Union	Mark Brody	R	100.0	98.9
64	Alamance	Dennis Riddell	R	100.0	98.9
10	Wayne	John R. Bell, IV	R	100.0	98.9
74	Forsyth	Jeff Zenger	R	100.0	98.9
69	Union	Dean Arp	R	100.0	98.8
3	Craven	Steve Tyson	R	100.0	98.7
51	Lee	John Sauls	R	100.0	98.5
89	Catawba	Mitchell S. Setzer	R	100.0	98.5

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
113	Polk	Jake Johnson	R	100.0	98.3
47	Robeson	Jarrod Lowery	R	100.0	98.3
95	Iredell	Grey Mills	R	100.0	98.3
109	Gaston	Donnie Loftis	R	100.0	98.3
84	Iredell	Jeffrey C. McNeely	R	100.0	98.3
83	Cabarrus	Kevin Crutchfield	R	100.0	98.2
24	Wilson	Ken Fontenot	R	100.0	98.2
25	Nash	Allen Chesser	R	100.0	98.2
108	Gaston	John A. Torbett	R	100.0	98.2
110	Gaston	Kelly E. Hastings	R	100.0	98.1
63	Alamance	Stephen M. Ross	R	100.0	98.1
68	Union	David Willis	R	100.0	98.1
111	Cleveland	Tim Moore	R	100.0	98.0
120	Macon	Karl E. Gillespie	R	100.0	98.0
15	Onslow	Phil Shepherd	R	100.0	97.9

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
85	McDowell	Dudley Greene	R	100.0	97.9
65	Rockingham	A. Reece Pyrtle, Jr.	R	100.0	97.9
81	Davidson	Larry W. Potts	R	100.0	97.9
12	Lenoir	Chris Humphrey	R	100.0	97.8
1	Chowan	Edward C. Goodwin	R	100.0	97.7
67	Stanly	Wayne Sasser	R	100.0	97.7
76	Rowan	Harry Warren	R	100.0	97.7
4	Duplin	Jimmy Dixon	R	100.0	97.6
117	Henderson	Jennifer Balkcom	R	100.0	97.4
13	Carteret	Celeste Cairns	R	100.0	97.4
59	Guilford	Jon Hardister (resigned 4.8.24)	R	100.0	97.4
46	Columbus	Brenden H. Jones	R	100.0	97.4
53	Harnett	Howard Penny, Jr.	R	100.0	97.3
5	Pasquotank	Bill Ward	R	100.0	97.3

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
77	Davie	Julia C. Howard	R	100.0	97.3
80	Davidson	Sam Watford	R	100.0	97.2
70	Randolph	Brian Biggs	R	100.0	97.2
43	Cumberland	Diane Wheatley	R	100.0	96.9
96	Catawba	Jay Adams	R	100.0	96.9
9	Pitt	Timothy Reeder, MD	R	100.0	96.9
26	Johnston	Donna McDowell White	R	100.0	96.9
112	Mecklenburg	Tricia Ann Cotham	R	100.0	96.9
82	Cabarrus	Kristin Baker	R	100.0	96.9
78	Moore	Neal Jackson	R	100.0	96.9
91	Stokes	Kyle Hall	R	100.0	96.7
22	Bladen	William D. Brisson	R	100.0	96.7
62	Guilford	John Faircloth	R	100.0	96.7
75	Forsyth	Donny Lambeth	R	100.0	96.7

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
17	Brunswick	Frank Iler	R	100.0	96.4
28	Johnston	Larry C. Strickland	R	100.0	96.4
79	Beaufort	Keith Kidwell	R	100.0	96.4
16	Pender	Carson Smith	R	96.2	96.2
119	Swain	Mike Clampitt	R	100.0	96.2
6	Harnett	Joseph Pike	R	100.0	95.8
20	New Hanover	Ted Davis, Jr.	R	100.0	95.5
19	Brunswick	Charles W. Miller	R	96.3	95.3
14	Onslow	George Cleveland	R	100.0	95.2
90	Surry	Sarah Stevens	R	96.3	95.0
118	Haywood	Mark Pless	R	95.8	94.7
94	Wilkes	Jeffrey Elmore	R	95.8	94.7
32	Granville	Frank Sossamon	R	96.3	94.1
86	Burke	Hugh Blackwell	R	95.8	94.1
52	Richmond	Ben T. Moss, Jr.	R	95.7	92.1

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
93	Watauga	Ray Pickett	R	92.3	92.0
60	Guilford	Cecil Brockman	D	87.5	83.3
23	Edgecombe	Shelly Willingham	D	84.6	80.8
27	Northampton	Michael H. Wray	D	77.8	80.1
106	Mecklenburg	Carla D. Cunningham	D	69.2	65.9
48	Scotland	Garland E. Pierce	D	70.4	63.6
99	Mecklenburg	Nasif Majeed	D	63.0	52.6
57	Guilford	Ashton Wheeler Clemmons	D	48.0	49.4
2	Person	B. Ray Jeffers	D	50.0	46.4
42	Cumberland	Marvin W. Lucas	D	45.0	42.4
38	Wake	Abe Jones	D	37.0	36.7
39	Wake	James Roberson	D	37.5	34.2
102	Mecklenburg	Becky Carney	D	33.3	33.9
40	Wake	Joe John	D	37.0	33.7

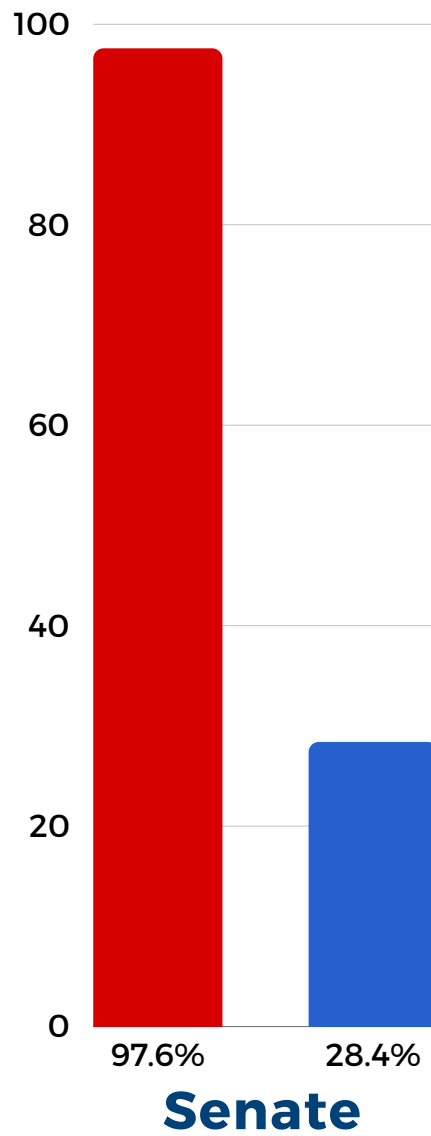
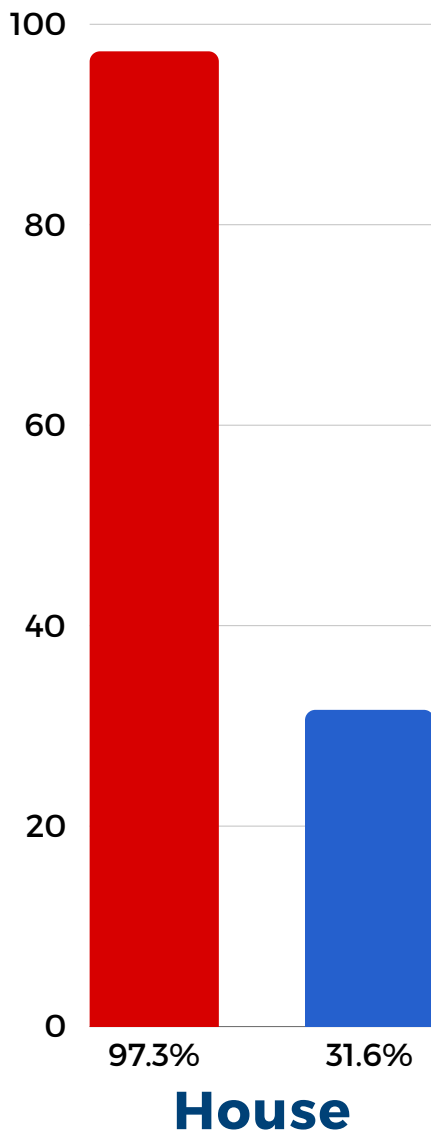
District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
11	Wake	Allison A. Dahle	D	29.6	32.3
54	Chatham	Robert T. Reives, II	D	26.1	32.1
92	Mecklenburg	Terry Brown	D	33.3	31.2
33	Wake	Rosa U. Gill	D	32.0	31.1
31	Durham	Zack Hawkins	D	32.0	29.9
45	Cumberland	Frances Jackson, PhD	D	37.0	29.5
72	Forsyth	Amber M. Baker	D	37.5	29.4
107	Mecklenburg	Kelly M. Alexander, Jr.	D	28.6	28.3
73	Cabarrus	Diamond Staton-Williams, RN, BSN, MHA	D	30.8	27.7
104	Mecklenburg	Brandon Lofton	D	30.8	27.2
21	Wake	Ya Liu	D	30.4	27.0
114	Buncombe	Eric Ager	D	29.6	26.7
44	Cumberland	Charles Smith	D	29.6	26.4
58	Guilford	Amos L. Quick, III	D	26.9	26.0

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
105	Mecklenburg	Wesley Harris, PhD	D	29.2	23.8
8	Pitt	Gloristine Brown	D	25.9	23.6
50	Orange	Renée A. Price	D	29.6	23.6
71	Forsyth	Kanika Brown	D	22.7	23.4
116	Buncombe	Caleb Rudow	D	25.0	22.5
29	Durham	Vernetta Alston	D	22.2	22.0
66	Wake	Sarah Crawford	D	23.1	21.2
88	Mecklenburg	Mary Belk	D	25.9	20.6
56	Orange	Allen Buansi	D	25.9	20.6
18	New Hanover	Deb Butler	D	25.9	20.6
115	Buncombe	Lindsey Prather	D	25.9	20.6
34	Wake	Tim Longest	D	23.1	19.7
35	Wake	Terence Everitt	D	25.9	19.4
103	Mecklenburg	Laura Budd	D	22.2	19.3
49	Wake	Cynthia Ball	D	22.2	18.9

District	Home County	Name	Party	Objective	2023-24 LBR Score
41	Wake	Maria Cervania	D	22.2	18.9
100	Mecklenburg	John Autry	D	18.5	16.2
30	Durham	Marcia Morey	D	18.5	16.1
36	Wake	Julie von Haefen	D	19.2	15.2
101	Mecklenburg	Carolyn G. Logan	D	10.5	12.4
61	Guilford	Pricey Harrison	D	11.1	10.3
59	Guilford	Alan Branson (appointed 4.16.24)	R	100.0	N/A

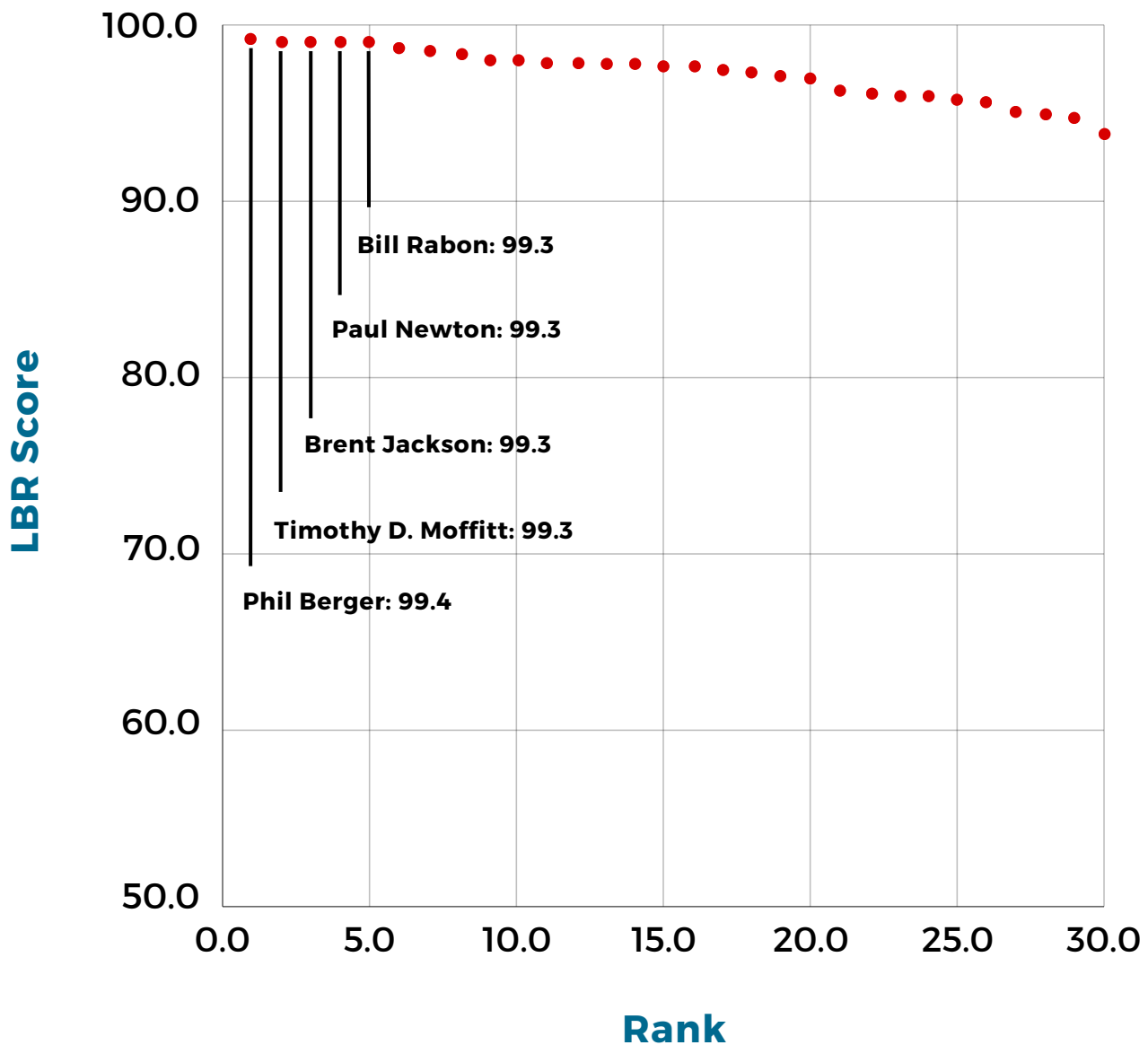
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Average LBR score by party



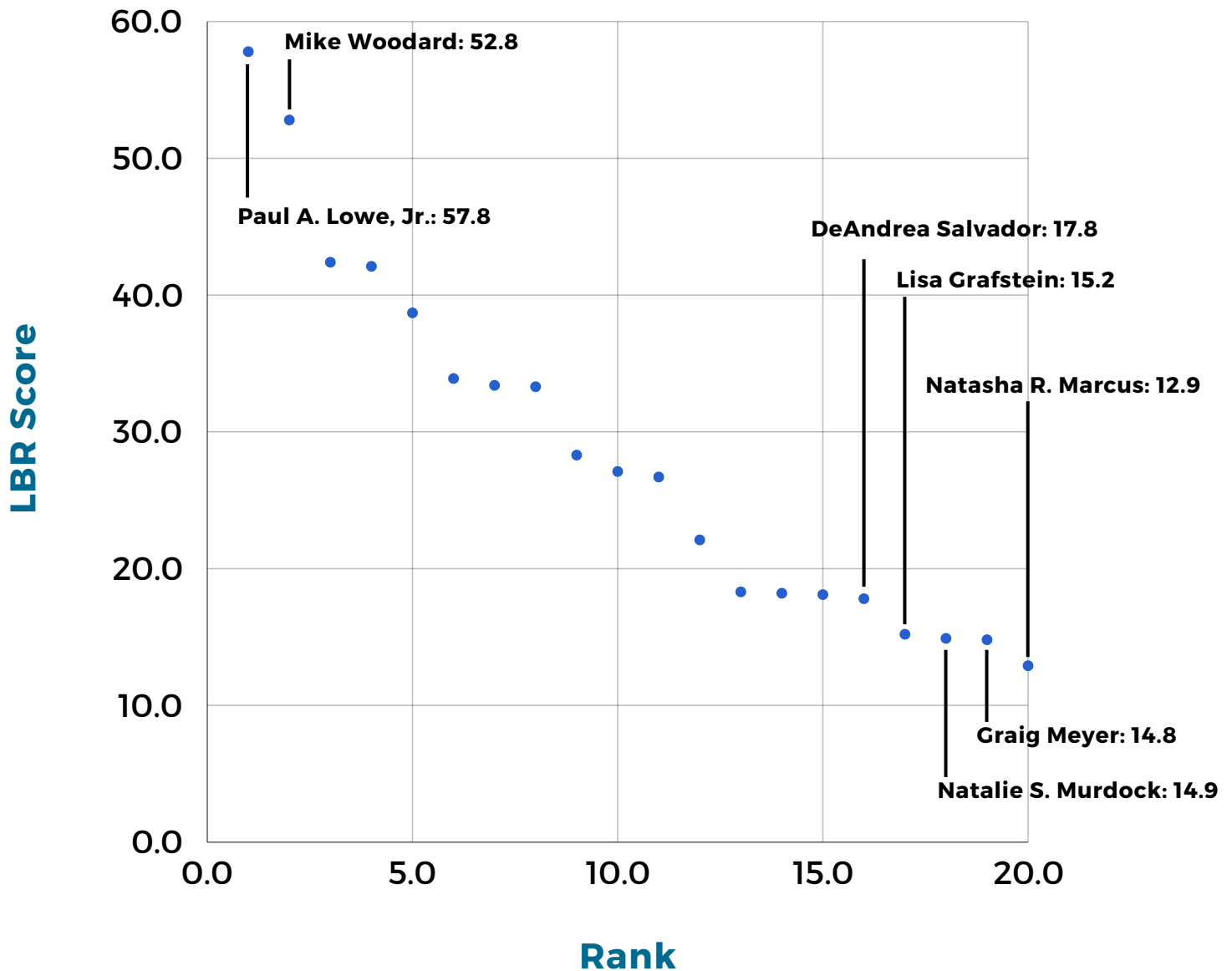
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Senate Republican Map



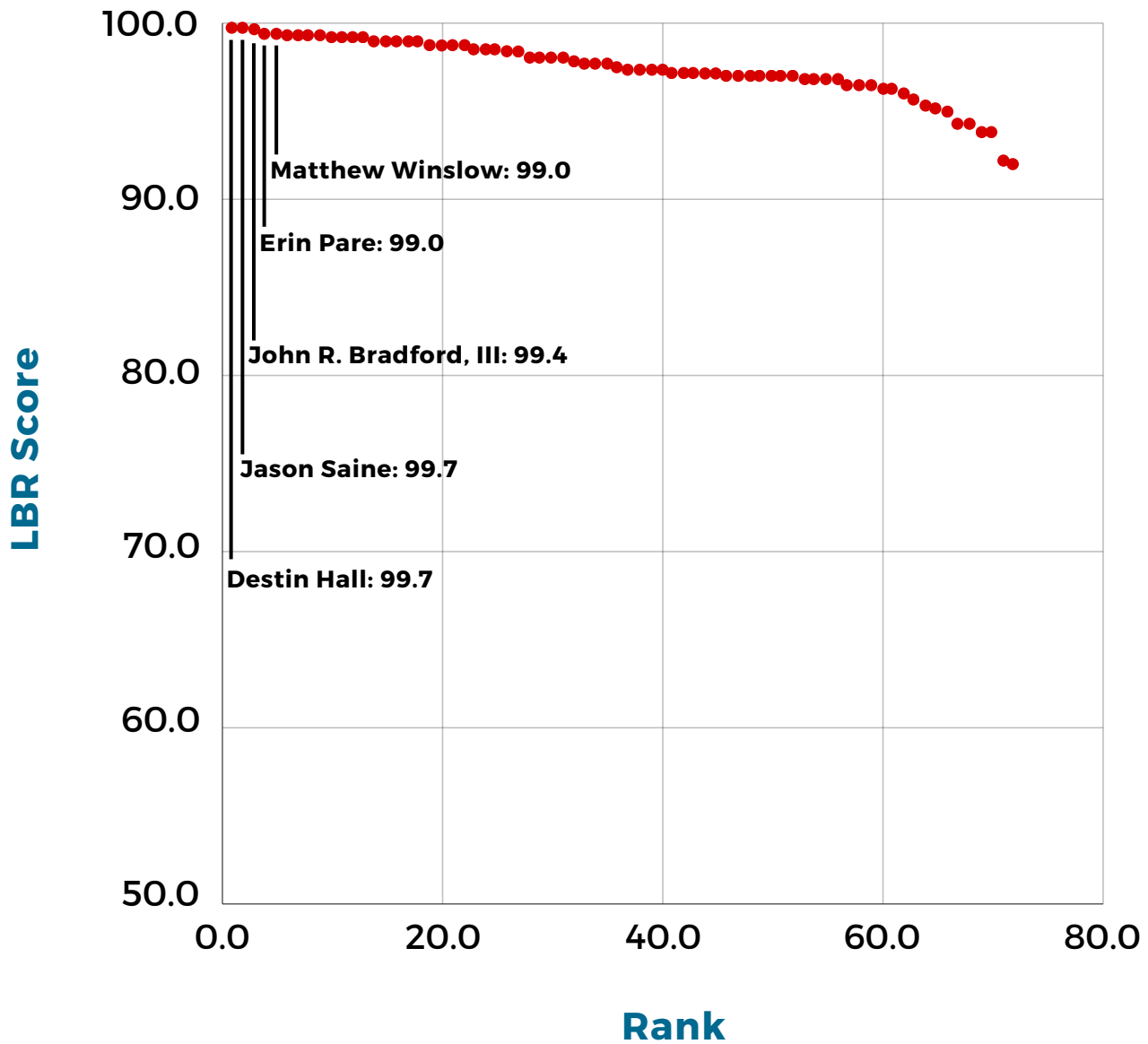
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Senate Democrat Map



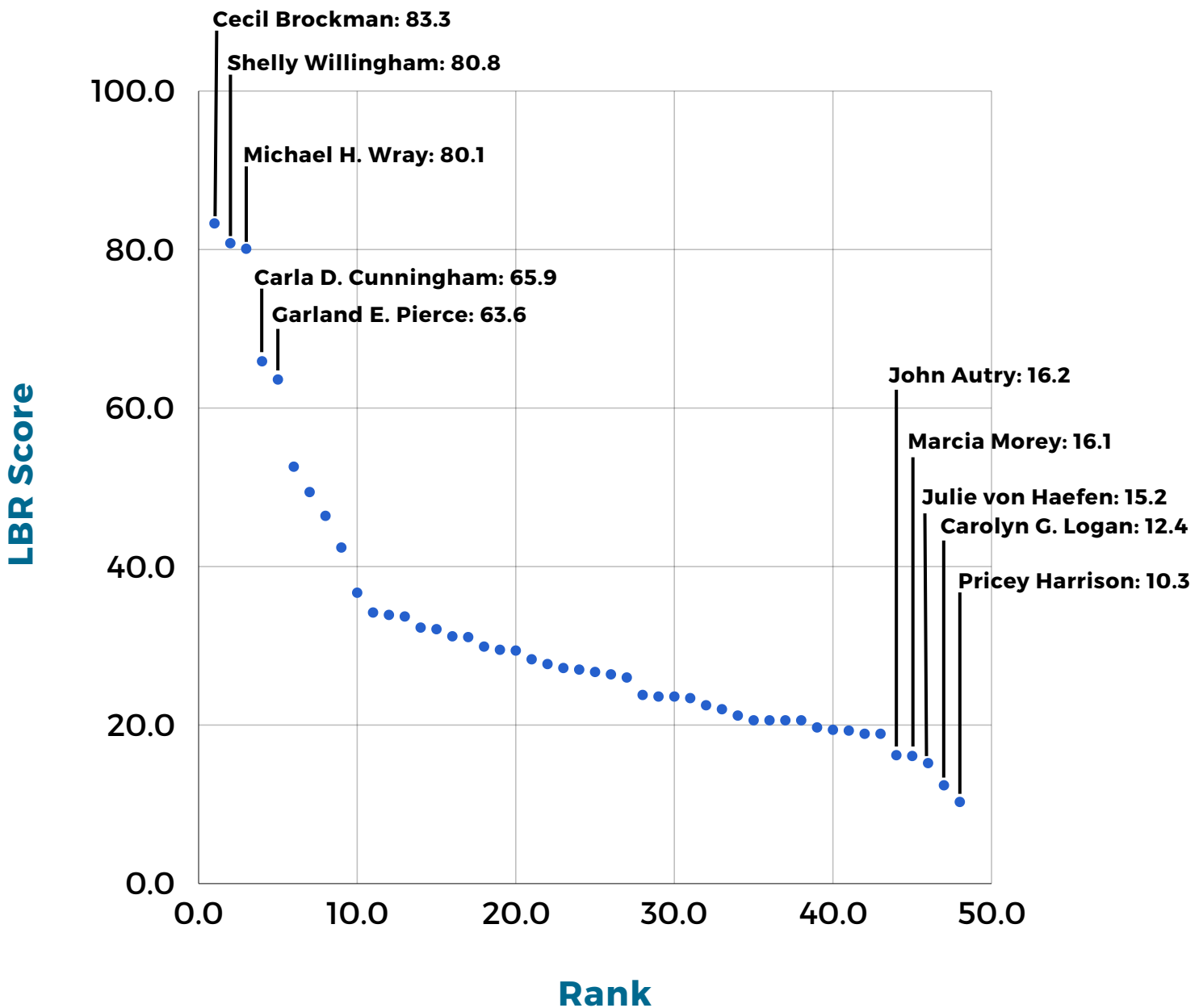
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House Republican Map



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House Democrat Map



BILLS CONSIDERED IN THE LBR

Bill Number	Title	Primary Sponsors Receiving Credit	House Vote	Senate Vote	Preferred Vote
H130	Energy Choice/Solar Decommissioning Rqmts.	Arp, Miller, Saine, Wray	Concurrence	Second Reading	Aye
H155	Titles for Off-Road Vehicle./Low Speed Vehicle. Insp.	Biggs, N. Jackson, Sossamon	Concurrence	Third Reading	Aye
H198	DOT Leg. Changes	B. Jones, McNeely, Shepherd, Tyson	Concurrence	Second Reading	Aye
H198	DOT Leg. Changes	N/A	Veto Override	Veto Override	Aye
H219	Charter School Omnibus	Bradford, Saine, Torbett, Willis	Second Reading	Second Reading	Aye
H219	Charter School Omnibus	N/A	Veto Override	Veto Override	Aye
H228	Rev. Laws Tech., Clarifying, & Admin. Changes.	P. Newton, Perry, Rabon; Bradford, Kidwell, Setzer, Wray	Second Reading	Second or Third Reading	Aye

Bill Number	Title	Primary Sponsors Receiving Credit	House Vote	Senate Vote	Preferred Vote
H259 Amendment	Senate Budget Amendment to kill corporate income tax cut	Grafstein	N/A	Amendment; Second Reading	No
H259 Amendment	House Budget Amendment to kill Opportunity Scholarships	Budd	Amendment; Third Reading	N/A	No
H409	Regulation of Accessory Dwelling Units.	Moffitt, Mayfield; Alston G. Brown, Tyson, Winslow	Second Reading	N/A	Aye
H488	Code Council Reorg. and Var. Code Amend.	Brody, Cotham, D. Hall, Riddell	Concurrence	Second Reading	Aye
H488	Code Council Reorg. and Var. Code Amend.	N/A	Veto Override	Veto Override	Aye
H551	Landlord-Tenant and HOA Changes	Bradford, Hardister, K. Hall	Second Reading		Aye
H556	Tenancy in Com./E-Notary/Small Claims Changes.	N/A	Concurrence	Second Reading	Aye
H600	Reg Reform Act of 2023	Brody, Chesser, Riddell, Zenger	Veto Override	Veto Override	Aye
H688	Increase Access for Small Employers/ Insurance.	Pare, Humphrey, White	Second Reading		Aye

Bill Number	Title	Primary Sponsors Receiving Credit	House Vote	Senate Vote	Preferred Vote
H750	Address ESG Factors	Cairns, D. Hall, N. Jackson, Saine	Second Reading	Second Reading	Aye
H823	Eliminate School Choice Program Waitlists.	N/A	Second Reading	N/A	Aye
H823	Choose Your School, Choose Your Future.	Lee, Barnes, Galey; Cotham, Loftis, Willis, Moore	N/A	N/A	Aye
H864	PFAS Pollution and Polluter Liability.	Davis, Iler	N/A	N/A	No
H98	Right to Try Individualized Treatments	N/A	Concurrence	Second Reading	Aye
H984	Removal of Squatters from Private Property.	Bradford, Gillespie, Iler, Shepherd	Second Reading	N/A	Aye
S166	2024 Bldg. Code Regulatory Reform.	Krawiec, Jarvis, Lowe	Conference Report	Conference Report	Aye
S3	NC Compassionate Care Act.	Rabon, Lee, Lowe	N/A	Third Reading	Aye
S325	Limit Online Marketplace Regulations.	Perry, Lazzara, Moffitt	N/A	Second Reading	Aye
S355	NC Farm Act of 2024	N/A	Conference Report	Conference Report	Aye
S512	Greater Accountability for Boards/Commissions.	Daniel, Rabon, Berger	Conference Report	Conference Report	Aye

Bill Number	Title	Primary Sponsors Receiving Credit	House Vote	Senate Vote	Preferred Vote
S512	Greater Accountability for Boards/Commissions.	N/A	Veto Override	Veto Override	Aye
S582	Farm Act of 2023	B. Jackson, B. Newton, Sanderson	Second Reading	Concurrence	Aye
S582	Farm Act of 2023	N/A	Veto Override	Veto Override	Aye
S607	Reg Reform Act of 2024	N/A	Second Reading	Concurrence	Aye
S678	Clean Energy/Other Changes	P. Newton, B. Newton, Craven	Veto Override	Veto Override	Aye

About the North Carolina FreeEnterprise Foundation

NCFREE's mission is to give leaders the freedom to run their business with minimal government encroachment by empowering them with political intelligence, topical data, and situational awareness.



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North Carolina
FreeEnterprise
Foundation