

The North Carolina State Ports Authority
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The North Carolina State Ports Authority is an entity of the North Carolina state government, created by sections 143B-452 through 143B-467 of the North Carolina Statutes.

The Authority has broad authority to promote, develop, and operate seaports within the state, specifically Wilmington, Morehead City, and Southport. The Authority has a specific mandate, added in 1979, to provide terminal facilities for containers at Wilmington and Morehead City. Sec. 143B-458.1. Southport is not named in that section.

The Authority is not part of the administrative branch of the North Carolina government, but is separately controlled by a board of directors of eleven people, six appointed by the Governor, six appointed by the legislature, and the Secretary of Commerce, serving *ex officio*.

All of the current directors are present or former business people or bankers. There are no public interest or environmental advocates on the board. The directors reside throughout the state--Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Gastonia. One resides in Wilmington. None reside in Brunswick County.

The property of the Authority is not subject to taxes.

The Authority has power of eminent domain.

The Authority can issue bonds, but such bonds would be obligations of the Authority only, not the State of North Carolina.