GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2007

SENATE BILL 790*

Short Title:	Test. Additions to Trusts/Will References.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senator Hartsell.	
Referred to:	Judiciary II (Criminal).	

March 15, 2007

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO UPDATE THE LAW REGARDING TESTAMENTARY ADDITIONS
3	TO TRUSTS, TO CODIFY THE DOCTRINES OF INCORPORATION BY
4	REFERENCE AND ACTS OF INDEPENDENT SIGNIFICANCE, AND TO
5	ALLOW, IF AUTHORIZED BY WILL, THE DISPOSITION OF TANGIBLE
6	PERSONAL PROPERTY OTHER THAN MONEY BY A SEPARATE WRITING,
7	AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.
8	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
9	SECTION 1. Article 8 of Chapter 31 of the General Statutes reads as
10	rewritten:
11	"Article 8.
12	"Devise or Bequest to Trustee of an Existing Trust. Testamentary Additions to Trusts.
13	"§ 31-47. Devise or bequest to trustee of an existing trust. Testamentary additions
14	<u>to trusts.</u>
15	A devise or bequest in a will duly executed pursuant to the provisions of this
16	Chapter may be made in form or substance to the trustee of any trust, including an
17	existing testamentary trust, if established in writing prior to the execution of such will.
18	Such devise or bequest shall not be invalid because the trust is amendable or revocable
19	or both by the settlor or any other person or persons; nor because the trust instrument or
20	any amendment thereto was not executed in the manner required for wills, nor because
21	the trust was amended after execution of the will. Unless the will provides otherwise,
22	such devise or bequest shall operate to dispose of property under the terms of the trust
23	as they appear in writing at the testator's death and the property shall not be deemed
24	held under a testamentary trust. An entire revocation of the trust prior to the testator's
25	death shall invalidate the devise or bequest.
26	(a) <u>A will may validly devise property to:</u>
27	(1) The trustee of a trust established before the testator's death by the
28	testator, by the testator and some other person, or by some other
29	person, including a trust authorized by G.S. 36C-4-401.1; or

S

General Assembly of North Carolina

1			
1	(2) The trustee of a trust to be established at the testator's death, if the trust		
2	is identified in the testator's will and its terms are set forth in a written		
3	instrument executed before or concurrently with the execution of the		
4	testator's will, regardless of the existence, size, or character of the		
5	<u>corpus of the trust during the testator's lifetime.</u>		
6	The devise is not invalid because the trust is amendable or revocable, or because the		
7	trust instrument or any amendment thereto was not executed in the manner required for		
8	wills, or because the trust was amended after the execution of the testator's will or after the testator's death. A reveable trust to which property is first transformed under		
9 10	the testator's death. A revocable trust to which property is first transferred under whether the subsection is an interviewed trust and not a testamentary trust and		
10 11	subdivision (2) of this subsection is an inter vivos trust and not a testamentary trust and,		
11	as of the date of the execution of the trust instrument, is subject to Article 6 of Chapter 36C of the General Statutes.		
12	(b) <u>Unless the testator's will provides otherwise, property devised to the trustee of</u>		
13 14	a trust described in subsection (a) of this section is not held under a testamentary trust of		
14	the testator, but it becomes a part of the trust to which it is devised, and shall be		
15 16	administered and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the governing		
17	instrument setting forth the terms of the trust, including any amendments thereto made		
18	before or after the testator's death.		
19	(c) <u>Unless the testator's will provides otherwise, a revocation or termination of</u>		
20	the trust before the testator's death causes the devise to lapse.		
21	(d) A devise to a trust shall be construed as a devise to the trustee of that trust.		
22	(e) For purposes of this section, "devise," when used as a noun, means a		
23	testamentary disposition of real or personal property and, when used as a verb, means to		
24	dispose of real or personal property by will.		
25	(f) Nothing in this section alters, amends, or in any manner affects the		
26	application of the doctrine of acts of independent significance."		
27	SECTION 2. Chapter 31 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a		
28	new Article to read:		
29	" <u>Article 9.</u>		
30	"Incorporation by Reference; Acts of Independent Significance; Separate Writing		
31	Identifying Tangible Personal Property.		
32	" <u>§ 31-51. Incorporation by reference.</u>		
33	A writing in existence when a will is executed may be incorporated by reference if		
34	the language of the will manifests this intent and describes the writing sufficiently to		
35	permit its identification.		
36	" <u>§ 31-52. Acts and events of independent significance.</u>		
37	A will may dispose of property by reference to acts and events that have significance		
38	apart from their effect upon the disposition made by the will, whether they occur before		
39	or after the execution of the will or before or after the testator's death. These acts and		
40	events may include the execution or revocation of another individual's will and the		
41	safekeeping of items in a secured depository.		
42	" <u>§ 31-53.</u> Separate writing identifying devise of certain types of tangible personal		
43	property.		

General Assembly of North Carolina

1 Whether or not the provisions relating to holographic wills apply, a will may refer to 2 a written statement or list to dispose of items of tangible personal property not otherwise 3 specifically disposed of by the will, other than money. To be admissible under this 4 section as evidence of the intended disposition, the writing must be signed by the 5 testator and must describe the items and the devisees with reasonable certainty. The 6 writing may be referred to as one to be in existence at the time of the testator's death; it 7 may be prepared before or after the execution of the will; it may be altered by the 8 testator after its preparation; and it may be a writing that has no significance apart from 9 its effect on the dispositions made by will. For purposes of this section, "devisee" means any person entitled to take real or 10 11 personal property under the provisions of a valid, probated will." 12 **SECTION 3.** The Revisor of Statutes shall cause to be printed along with 13 this act all relevant portions of the official comments to Sections 2-510 (Incorporation 14 by Reference), 2-511 (Testamentary Additions to Trusts), and 2-513 (Separate Writing 15 Identifying Devise of Certain Types of Tangible Personal Property) of the Uniform 16 Probate Code and all explanatory comments of the drafters of this act as the Revisor 17 deems appropriate. 18 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to estates 19 of decedents dying on or after that date regardless of when the will or instrument was 20 executed.