GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2013

S SENATE BILL 773*

Short Title:	Implement GSC Recommendations.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senator Hartsell (Primary Sponsor).	
Referred to:	Judiciary I.	

May 19, 2014

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION TO MODIFY THE SLAYER STATUTE DUE TO THE NEED TO ACCOUNT FOR PROPERTY HELD IN A JOINT TENANCY IN UNEQUAL SHARES, TO CLARIFY THE PROVISIONS FOR FILING CERTIFIED COPIES OF PROBATED WILLS IN OTHER COUNTIES WHERE A DECEDENT HAS REAL PROPERTY, TO DELETE THE STATUTORY FORMS FOR JUDGMENT DEBTORS CLAIMING EXEMPTIONS UNDER G.S. 1C-1601 BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS ALREADY HAS WIDELY USED FORMS FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND TO RESOLVE AN APPARENT CONFLICT BETWEEN RULE 8 OF THE NORTH CAROLINA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, DEALING WITH THE CONTENT OF PLEADINGS, AND G.S. 7A-243, DEALING WITH THE PROPER TRIAL COURT DIVISION, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART 1. MODIFICATION OF SLAYER STATUTE

SECTION 1.1. G.S. 31A-6 reads as rewritten:

"§ 31A-6. Survivorship property.

- (a) Where the slayer and the decedent hold property with right of survivorship as joint tenants, joint owners, joint obligees or otherwise, otherwise, the following apply:
 - (1) the The decedent's share thereof shall passpasses immediately upon the death of the decedent to his estate, decedent's death to the decedent's estate.
 - (2) and the The slayer's share shall be held by the slayer during his lifetime for life and at his the slayer's death shall pass to the estate of the decedent. During his lifetime, the slayer shall have the right to the income from his share of the property subject to the rights of creditors of the slayer. decedent's estate.
- (b) Where three or more persons, including the slayer and the decedent, hold property with right of survivorship as joint tenants, joint owners, joint obligees or otherwise, the portion of the decedent's share which would have accrued to the slayer as a result of the death of the decedent shall pass to the estate of the decedent. If the slayer becomes the final survivor, one half of the property then held by the slayer shall pass immediately to the estate of the decedent, and upon the death of the slayer the remaining interest of the slayer shall pass to the estate of the decedent. During his lifetime the slayer shall have the right to the income from his share of the property subject to the rights of creditors of the slayer otherwise, the following apply:



- 1 (1) The decedent's share is converted effective upon the decedent's death to that
 2 of a tenant in common and passes to the decedent's estate.
 3 (2) The remaining persons, including the slayer, continue to hold their shares
 - (2) The remaining persons, including the slayer, continue to hold their shares with right of survivorship.
 - (3) If the slayer becomes the final survivor, upon the slayer's death, the slayer's share, which includes the other shares that passed to the slayer as the final survivor, shall pass to the decedent's estate.
 - (c) During the slayer's lifetime, the slayer shall have the right to the income from the slayer's share, subject to the rights of the slayer's creditors.
 - (d) Nothing in this section prohibits a partitioning of the property pursuant to Chapter 46 of the General Statutes or severing the joint tenancy in any manner provided by law. Any share taken by the slayer by reason of partition or severance shall be subject to subdivision (b)(3) of this section."

SECTION 1.2. This Part becomes effective October 1, 2014, and applies to property subject to Article 3 of Chapter 31A of the General Statutes as to decedents dying on or after that date.

PART II. CLARIFY THE PROVISIONS FOR FILING CERTIFIED COPIES OF PROBATED WILLS IN OTHER COUNTIES WHERE A DECEDENT HAS REAL PROPERTY

SECTION 2.1. G.S. 28A-2A-13 reads as rewritten:

"§ 28A-2A-13. Wills filed in clerk's office; certified copies filed for real property in other counties.

- (a) All original <u>probated</u> wills shall remain in the <u>clerk's office, office of the clerk of superior court,</u> among the <u>public records</u> of the court where the <u>same shall be proved, and to such wills any person may have access, as to the other records. wills were probated.</u>
- (b) If said a probated will contains a devise of real estate, devises real property outside said the county where said will is the will was probated, then a copy of the said will, together with the probate of the same, a copy of the will and a copy of the certificate of probate of the will, certified under the hand and seal of the clerk of the superior court of said the county where the will was probated, may be recorded in the book of wills and filed in the office of the clerk of the superior court of any other county in the this State in which said land is situated the real property is situated. The filing of the probated will in the county where the real property is situated shall have with the same effect as to passing the title to said real estate for purposes of G.S. 31-39(c) as to the priorities of claims against the real property as if said the will had originally been probated and filed in said county and the clerk of the superior court of said last-mentioned county in that county and as if the clerk of superior court of that county had had jurisdiction to probate the same.will."

SECTION 2.2. G.S. 31-39(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) A will duly probated in one county of this State is not effective to pass title to an interest in real property located in any other county of this State as against lien creditors or purchasers for valuable consideration from the intestate heirs at law of a decedent unless a certified copy of the will is and a certified copy of the certificate of probate of the will are filed in the office of the clerk of superior court in the county where the real property lies within the time limitation set forth in subsection (b) of this section."

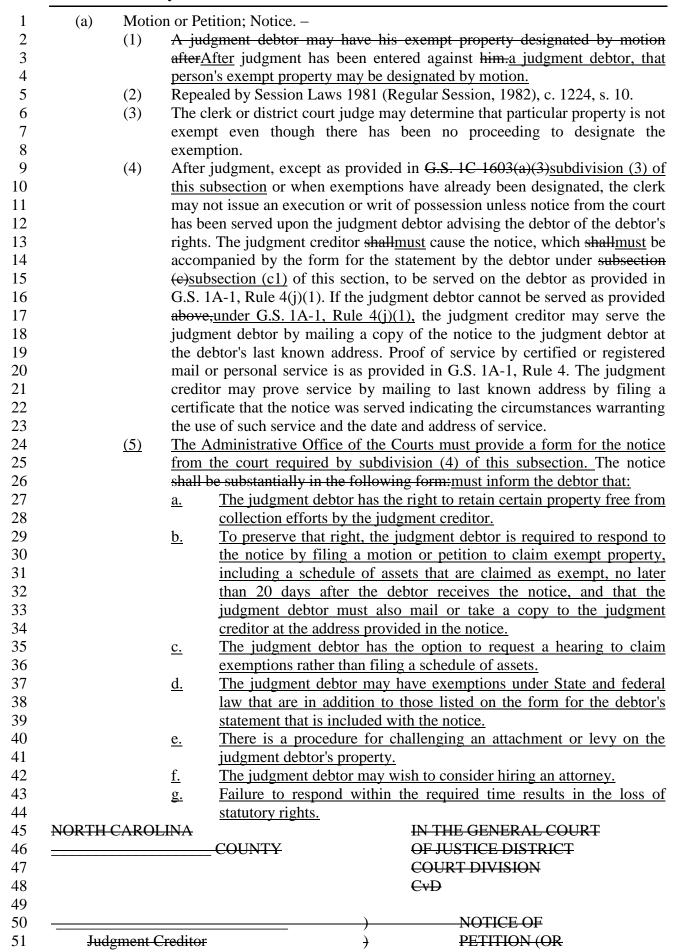
SECTION 2.3. This Part becomes effective October 1, 2014, and applies to estates of decedents dying before, on, or after that date.

PART III. DELETE STATUTORY FORMS IN G.S. 1C-1603

SECTION 3.1. G.S. 1C-1603 reads as rewritten:

"§ 1C-1603. Procedure for setting aside exempt property.

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) **MOTION) TO SET** 1 2) OFF DEBTOR'S VS. 3 EXEMPT PROPERTY 4 5 **GREETINGS:** 6 You have been named as a "judgment debtor" in a proceeding initiated by a "judgment creditor". A "judgment debtor" is a person who a court has declared owes money to another, the 7 8 "judgment creditor". The purpose of this proceeding is to make arrangements to collect that 9 debt from you personally or from property you own. 10 It is important that you respond to this notice no later than 20 days after you receive it 11 because you may lose valuable rights if you do nothing. You may wish to consider hiring an attorney to help you with this proceeding to make certain that you receive all the protections to 12 which you are entitled under the North Carolina Constitution and laws. 13 14 **NOTICE TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR:** 15 THERE ARE CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW THAT 16 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO CLAIM IN ADDITION TO THE EXEMPTIONS LISTED ON 17 THE "SCHEDULE OF DEBTOR'S PROPERTY AND REQUEST TO SET ASIDE EXEMPT 18 PROPERTY" THAT IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS NOTICE. 19 These exemptions may include social security benefits, unemployment benefits, workers' 20 compensation benefits, and earnings for your personal services rendered within the last 60 days. There is available to you a prompt procedure for challenging an attachment or levy on 21 22 your property. 23 (b) Contents of Motion or Petition. – The motion or petition must: 24 (1) Name the judgment debtor; 25 Name the judgment creditors of the debtor insofar as they are known to the (2) 26 27 (3) If it is a motion to modify a previously allocated exemption, describe the 28 change of condition (if the movant received notice of the exemption hearing) 29 and the modification desired. 30 (c) Statement by the Debtor. – When proceedings are instituted, the judgment debtor 31 shallmust file with the court a schedule of: 32 The debtor's assets, including their location; (1) 33 (2)The debtor's debts and the names and addresses of the debtor's creditors; 34 (3) The property that the debtor desires designated as exempt. 35 The form for the statement shall be substantially as follows: 36 **NORTH CAROLINA** IN THE GENERAL COURT 37 COUNTY OF JUSTICE DISTRICT 38 **COURT DIVISION** 39 **CvD** 40 41 **Judgment Creditor** SCHEDULE OF DEBTOR'S 42) **PROPERTY** 43) AND REQUEST TO VS. 44) **SET ASIDE EXEMPT** 45 **PROPERTY** Judgment Debtor) 46 **NOTICE TO JUDGMENT DEBTOR:** 47 THERE ARE CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS UNDER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW THAT 48 YOU ARE ENTITLED TO CLAIM IN ADDITION TO THE EXEMPTIONS LISTED

These exemptions may include social security benefits, unemployment benefits, workers' compensation benefits, and earnings for your personal services rendered within the last 60

BELOW.

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J	vailable to you a prompt procedure for challenging	
your property.		
I,	, being duly sworn do depose and say:	
(fill in your na	ame)	
1. That I am a	citizen and resident of	County,
North Carolina;		
2. That I was		
	(date of birth)	
3. That I am (married to	
	(spouse's name)	
	.	
(not marric		
4. That the f	following persons live in my household and are in	r substantial need
support:		
NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO DEBTOR	AGE
5. That (I ov	pace, as necessary) vn) (I am purchasing) (I rent) (choose one; mark	out the other cho
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8. That I wish to claim my interest in the following real or personal property, or in a cooperative that owns property, that I use as a residence or my dependent uses as a residence. I also wish to claim my interest in the following burial plots for myself or my dependents. I understand that my total interest claimed in the residence and burial plots may not exceed \$35,000, except that if I am unmarried and am 65 years of age or older, I am entitled to claim a total exemption in the residence and burial plots not to exceed \$60,000 so long as the property was previously owned by me as a tenant by the entireties or as a joint tenant with rights of survivorship, and the former co-owner of the property is deceased.

I understand that I am not entitled to this exemption if I take the homestead exemption provided by the Constitution of North Carolina in other property. I understand that if I wish to claim more than one parcel exempt I must attach additional pages setting forth the following information for each parcel claimed exempt.

Property Location:

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•	_ Township		
Street Address			
Legal Description:			
Number by whi	ch county tax asses	sor identifies property_	
			ent of conveyance that descr
			erty in as much detail as possi
Attach addition	al sheets if necessar	'y.)	
Record Owner(s) _			
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	ach additional page		6 111 16
If you are unm	arried and 65 year	s of age or older, speci	fy which, if any, property l
above was previous	sly owned by you a	s a tenant by the entireti	es or as a joint tenant with r
of curvivorship and	las to which the for	mer co-owner of the pro	
or survivorsing and			merry is deceased.
9. That I wish	to claim the follow	ving life insurance police	
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that I am also entitled to \$1,000 for each person dependent on me for support, but not to exceed

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or personal property as exempt that is worth less than \$35,000 or I made no claim for a residential exemption under section (8) above. I understand that I am entitled to an exemption of up to \$5,000 in any property only if I made no claim under section (8) above or a claim that was less than \$35,000 under section (8) above. I understand that I am entitled to claim any unused amount that I was permitted to make under section (8) above up to a maximum of \$5,000 in any property. (Examples: (a) if you claim \$34,000 under section (8), \$1,000 allowed here; (b) if you claim \$30,000 under section (8), \$5,000 allowed here; (c) if you claim \$35,000

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	claim allowed here.) I further	
		ue of this property of the amount of
		hat tangible personal property purch
	proceeding may not be exempt.	
PERSONAL PROPE		
Property Location	Amount of Liens	Value of
	or Purchase Money	Debtor's
	Security Interests	Interest
		aim more than one parcel exempt, I
	es setting forth the following info	rmation for each parcel claimed exer
Property Location		
County	Township	
Street Address		
Legal Description:		
	r county tax assessor identifies pr	operty
<i>j j</i>	r i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	
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Record Owner(s): Estimated Value:	eate here: or describe the p	
Record Owner(s): Estimated Value: Lienholders:	cate here: or describe the particle sheets if necessary.)	property in as much detail as possible
Record Owner(s): Estimated Value: Lienholders: (1) Name		property in as much detail as possible
Record Owner(s): Estimated Value: Lienholders: (1) Name Address	Current Balance	property in as much detail as possible
Record Owner(s): Estimated Value: Lienholders: (1) Name Address (2) Name	Current Balance	property in as much detail as possible
Record Owner(s): Estimated Value: Lienholders: (1) Name Address (2) Name Address		property in as much detail as possible
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Record Owner(s): Estimated Value: Lienholders: (1) Name Address (2) Name Address (3) Name		property in as much detail as possible

16. That I wish to claim as exempt the following retirement plans that I have that are individual retirement plans as described in the Internal Revenue Code or that are treated in the same manner as an individual retirement plan under the Internal Revenue Code, including individual retirement accounts and Roth retirement accounts as described in section 408(a) and section 408A of the Internal Revenue Code, individual retirement annuities as described in section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, and accounts established as part of a trust described in section 408(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.

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motion to designate his exemptions with a schedule of assets or may request, in writing, a hearing before the clerk to claim exemptions.

- (2) If the judgment debtor does not file a motion to designate exemptions with a schedule of assets within 20 days after notice of his the debtor's rights was served in accordance with G.S. 1C 1603(a)(4) subdivision (a)(4) of this section, or if he the debtor does not request a hearing before the clerk within 20 days after service of the notice of rights and appear at the requested hearing, the judgment debtor has waived the exemptions provided in this Article and in Sections 1 and 2 of Article X of the North Carolina Constitution. Upon request of the judgment creditor, the clerk shallmust issue a writ of execution or writ of possession.
- (3) If the judgment debtor moves to designate his exemptions by filing a motion and schedule of assets, the judgment creditor is must be served as provided in G.S. 1C 1603(d).subsection (d) of this section.
- (4) If the judgment debtor requests a hearing before the clerk to claim exemptions, the clerk sets must set a hearing date and gives give notice of the hearing to the judgment debtor and judgment creditor. At the hearing, the judgment debtor may claim his the debtor's exemptions.
- (5) The judgment creditor has 10 days from the date served with a motion and schedule of assets or from the date of a hearing to claim exemptions to file an objection to the judgment debtor's schedule of exemptions.
- (6) If the judgment creditor files no objection to the schedule filed by the judgment debtor or claimed at the requested hearing, the clerk shallmust enter an order designating the property allowed by law and scheduled by the judgment debtor as exempt property. Upon request of the judgment creditor, the clerk shallmust issue an execution or writ of possession except for exempt property.
- (7) If the judgment creditor objects to the schedule filed or claimed by the judgment debtor, the clerk must place the motion for hearing by the district court judge, without a jury, at the next civil session.
- (8) The district court judge must determine the value of the property. The district court judge or the clerk, upon order of the judge, may appoint a qualified person to examine the property and report its value to the judge. Compensation of that person must be advanced by the person requesting the valuation and is a court cost having priority over the claims.
- (9) The district court judge must enter an order designating exempt property. Supplemental reports and orders may be filed and entered as necessary to implement the order.
- (10) Where the order designating exemptions indicates excess value in exempt property, the clerk, in an execution, may order the sale of property having excess value and appropriate distribution of the proceeds.
- (11) The clerk or district court judge may permit a particular item of property having value in excess of the allowable exemption to be retained by the judgment debtor upon hit-the-debtor's-making available to judgment creditors money or property not otherwise available to them in an amount equivalent to the excess value. Priorities of judgment creditors are the same in the substituted property as they were in the original property.
- (12) Appeal from a designation of exempt property by the clerk is to the district court judge. A party has 10 days from the date of entry of an order to appeal. Appeal from a designation of exempt property by a district court judge is to the Court of Appeals. Decisions of the Court of Appeals with regard to

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questions of valuation of property are final as provided in G.S. 7A-28. Other questions may be appealed as provided in G.S. 7A-30 and 7A-31.

- (f) Notation of Order on Judgment Docket. A notation of the order setting aside exempt property must be entered by the clerk of court on the judgment docket opposite the judgment that was the subject of the enforcement proceeding. If real property located in a county other than the county in which the judgment was rendered is designated as exempt and the judgment has already been docketed in that county, the clerk must send a notice of the designation of exempt property to the county where the property is located. The clerk of the county where the land is located shallmust enter a notation of the designation of exempt property on the judgment docket. If a judgment is docketed in a county where real property is located after that real property has been designated as exempt, the transcript of judgment must indicate that the exemptions have been designated. The clerk in the county receiving the transcript must enter the notation of designation of exempt property as well as docket the judgment.
- (g) Modification. The <u>judgment</u> debtor's exemption may be modified by motion in the original exemption proceeding by anyone who did not receive notice of the exemption hearing. Also, the debtor's exemption may be modified upon a change of circumstances, by motion in the original exemption proceeding, made by the debtor or anyone interested. A substantial change in value may constitute changed circumstances. Modification may include the substitution of different property for the exempt property.
 - (h) Repealed by Session Laws 1981 (Regular Session, 1982), c. 1224, s. 14."

SECTION 3.2. This Part becomes effective October 1, 2014. This Part does not affect any debtor's statements filed before that date.

PART IV. RESOLUTION OF CONFLICT BETWEEN RULE 8 OF THE NORTH CAROLINA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE AND G.S. 7A-243

SECTION 4.1. G.S. 1A-1, Rule 8(a), reads as rewritten:

- "(a) Claims for relief. A pleading which sets forth a claim for relief, whether an original claim, counterclaim, crossclaim, or third-party claim shall contain
 - (1) A short and plain statement of the claim sufficiently particular to give the court and the parties notice of the transactions, occurrences, or series of transactions or occurrences, intended to be proved showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and
 - (2) A demand for judgment for the relief to which he deems himself entitled. Relief in the alternative or of several different types may be demanded. In all negligence actions, and in all claims for punitive damages in any civil action, wherein the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), the pleading shall not state the demand for monetary relief, but shall state that the relief demanded is for damages incurred or to be incurred in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).(\$10,000) and shall also state the proper trial court division under G.S. 7A-243. If the amount in controversy is between ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), the pleading may state either trial division. However, at any time after service of the claim for relief, any party may request of the claimant a written statement of the monetary relief sought, and the claimant shall, within 30 days after such service, provide such statement, which shall not be filed with the clerk until the action has been called for trial or entry of default entered. Such statement may be amended in the manner and at times as provided by Rule 15."

SECTION 4.2. G.S. 1A-1, Rule 8(a), as amended by Section 4.1 of this act, reads as rewritten:

- "(a) Claims for relief. A pleading which sets forth a claim for relief, whether an original claim, counterclaim, crossclaim, or third-party claim shall contain
 - (1) A short and plain statement of the claim sufficiently particular to give the court and the parties notice of the transactions, occurrences, or series of transactions or occurrences, intended to be proved showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and
 - A demand for judgment for the relief to which he deems himself entitled. (2) Relief in the alternative or of several different types may be demanded. In all negligence actions, and in all claims for punitive damages in any civil action, wherein the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), the pleading shall not state the demand for monetary relief, but shall state that the relief demanded is for damages incurred or to be incurred in excess of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and shall also state the proper trial court division under G.S. 7A-243. If the amount in controversy is between ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) and twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000), the pleading may state either trial division. However, at any time after service of the claim for relief, any party may request of the claimant a written statement of the monetary relief sought, and the claimant shall, within 30 days after such service, provide such statement, which shall not be filed with the clerk until the action has been called for trial or entry of default entered. Such statement may be amended in the manner and at times as provided by Rule 15."

SECTION 4.3. Section 4.1 of this act becomes effective October 1, 2014, and applies to pleadings filed on or after that date. Section 4.2 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2015, and applies to pleadings filed on or after that date.

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PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 5.1. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.

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