GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 773* Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 6/26/14

Short Title:	Implement GSC Recommendations.	(Public)
Sponsors:		
Referred to:		

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, AND 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, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. 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 <u>The</u> 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) The decedent's share is converted effective upon the decedent's death to that of a tenant in common and passes to the decedent's estate.
 - (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 (3) of subsection (b) 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</u> records 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.

- (a) Motion or Petition; Notice.
 - (1) A judgment debtor may have his exempt property designated by motion after After judgment has been entered against him.a judgment debtor, that person's exempt property may be designated by motion.

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Repealed by Session Laws 1981 (Regular Session, 1982), c. 1224, s. 10. 1 (2) 2 (3) The clerk or district court judge may determine that particular property is not 3 exempt even though there has been no proceeding to designate the 4 exemption. 5 (4) After judgment, except as provided in G.S. 1C-1603(a)(3) subdivision (3) of 6 this subsection or when exemptions have already been designated, the clerk 7 may not issue an execution or writ of possession unless notice from the court 8 has been served upon the judgment debtor advising the debtor of the debtor's 9 rights. The judgment creditor shallmust cause the notice, which shallmust be 10 accompanied by the form for the statement by the debtor under subsection 11 (c) subsection (c1) of this section, to be served on the debtor as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4(j)(1). If the judgment debtor cannot be served as provided 12 13 above under G.S. 1A-1. Rule 4(i)(1), the judgment creditor may serve the 14 judgment debtor by mailing a copy of the notice to the judgment debtor at 15 the debtor's last known address. Proof of service by certified or registered 16 mail or personal service is as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4. The judgment 17 creditor may prove service by mailing to last known address by filing a certificate that the notice was served indicating the circumstances warranting 18 19 the use of such service and the date and address of service. 20 (5) The Administrative Office of the Courts must provide a form for the notice 21 from the court required by subdivision (4) of this subsection. The notice 22 shall be substantially in the following form: must describe the types of 23 property exempt from execution under State and federal law. The notice 24 must also inform the debtor that: 25 The judgment debtor has the right to retain an interest in certain <u>a.</u> property free from collection efforts by the judgment creditor. 26 To preserve that right, the judgment debtor is required to respond to 27 <u>b.</u> the notice by filing a motion or petition to claim exempt property, 28 29 including a schedule of assets that are claimed as exempt, no later 30 than 20 days after the debtor receives the notice, and that the 31 judgment debtor must also mail or take a copy to the judgment 32 creditor at the address provided in the notice. 33 The judgment debtor has the option to request a hearing to claim <u>c.</u> 34 exemptions rather than filing a schedule of assets. 35 The judgment debtor may have exemptions under State and federal <u>d.</u> 36 law that are in addition to those listed on the form for the debtor's 37 statement that is included with the notice, such as Social Security 38 benefits, unemployment benefits, workers' compensation benefits, 39 and earnings for the debtor's personal services rendered within the 40 last 60 days. There is a procedure for challenging an attachment or levy on the 41 <u>e.</u> 42 judgment debtor's property. The judgment debtor may wish to consider hiring an attorney. 43 <u>f.</u> 44 Failure to respond within the required time results in the loss of g. 45 statutory rights. 46 NORTH CAROLINA IN THE GENERAL COURT 47 COUNTY OF JUSTICE DISTRICT 48 **COURT DIVISION** 49 **CvD** 50 51 NOTICE OF

The form for the statement si	ian oo sacstantian a	is follows.
NORTH CAROLINA		IN THE GENERAL COURT
COUR	NTY	OF JUSTICE DISTRICT
		COURT DIVISION
		CvD
Judgment Creditor)	SCHEDULE OF DEBTOR'S
)	PROPERTY
Vs.)	AND REQUEST TO
)	SET ASIDE EXEMPT
Judgment Debtor)	PROPERTY
	NOTICE TO JUDGN	IENT DEBTOR:
THERE ARE CERTAIN I	EXEMPTIONS UND	ER STATE AND FEDERAL LAW THAT
YOU ARE ENTITLED	TO CLAIM IN ADD	ITION TO THE EXEMPTIONS LISTED
	BELO	W.

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	ions may include social security benefits, unemp	
	nefits, and earnings for your personal services re	
days. There is ava	ailable to you a prompt procedure for challenging	g an attachment or levy
your property.		
I,	_, being duly sworn do depose and say:	
(fill in your na		
1. That I am a	citizen and resident of	County,
North Carolina;		
2. That I was b		
	(date of birth)	
3. That I am (r	married to)	
	(spouse's name)	
	. ;	
(not marrie	d)	
4. That the fo	ollowing persons live in my household and are	in substantial need of
support:		
NAME	RELATIONSHIP TO DEBTOR	AGE
		<u> </u>
		<u> </u>
		<u> </u>
		
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(house) (trailer) (a located atwhich is my resident	n) (I am purchasing) (I rent) (choose one; mark partment) (choose one; mark out the other choices ence. (address, city, zi) !p code)
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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

County	Township		
Legal Description:			
			ent of conveyance that des
			rty in as much detail as pos
Attach addition	nal sheets if necessary.)	
Record Owner(s) _			
Estimated Value:			
Lienholders:			
		Surrent Balance	
. ,			
Address —			
	(Current Balance	
Address —			
(4) If others, at	tach additional pages.		
` '	1 0		fy which if any property
n you are unn	iairieu anu us years		
ahova was praviou	ely owned by you as	of age of older, special tenant by the entireti	es or as a joint tenant with
above was previou	sly owned by you as a	a tenant by the entireti	es or as a joint tenant with
of survivorship and	sly owned by you as a l as to which the form	a tenant by the entireti er co-owner of the pro	es or as a joint tenant with perty is deceased:
of survivorship and 9. That I wish	sly owned by you as a l as to which the form to claim the following	a tenant by the entireti er co-owner of the pro ng life insurance polic	fy which, if any, property es or as a joint tenant with perty is deceased: ries whose sole beneficiarions.
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of survivorship and 9. That I wish (my wife) (my chil Name of Insurer 10. That I wish dependents) to wor Item 11. That I wish exceed \$2,000), or purchased within 9	sly owned by you as a las to which the form to claim the following dren) (my wife and character) (my w	renant by the entireticer co-owner of the prong life insurance policified insurance policifie	es or as a joint tenant with perty is deceased: sies whose sole beneficiaries Beneficiary(ies) e aid necessary for (myself fessional books, or tools (1) I understand that such pre

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property are held primarily for my personal, family or household use or for such use by my dependents.

I understand that I am entitled to personal property worth the sum of \$5,000. I understand that I am also entitled to \$1,000 for each person dependent on me for support, but not to exceed \$4,000 for dependents. I further understand that I am entitled to this amount after deduction from the value of the property the amount of any valid lien or purchase money security interest and that property purchased within 90 days of this proceeding may not be exempt.

Item (or class) of Property	Amount of Lien or Security Interest	Location	Estimated Value of Debtor's Interest

13. That I wish to claim my interest in the following motor vehicle as exempt from the claims of my creditors. I understand that I am entitled to my interest in a motor vehicle worth the sum of \$3,500 after deduction of the amount of any valid liens or purchase money security interest. I understand that a motor vehicle purchased within 90 days of this proceeding may not be exempt.

Make and	Year	Name(s) of	Name(s) of	Estimated
Model of		Title Owner	Lien Holder(s)	Value of
Motor Vehicle		of Record	of Record	Debtor's
				Interest

14. That I wish to claim as exempt the following compensation that I received or to which I am entitled for the personal injury of myself or a person upon whom I was dependent for support, including compensation from a private disability policy or an annuity, or compensation that I received for the death of a person upon whom I was dependent for support. I understand that this compensation is not exempt from claims for funeral, legal, medical, dental, hospital or health care charges related to the accident or injury that resulted in the payment of the compensation to me. I understand that if I wish to claim more than one amount of compensation exempt, I must attach additional pages setting forth the following information for each amount of compensation claimed exempt.

- (a) amount of compensation
- (b) method of payment: lump sum or installments (If installments, state amount, frequency and duration of payments)
- (c) name and relationship to debtor of person(s) injured or killed giving rise to compensation
- (d) location/source of compensation if received in lump or installments, including name and account number of any disability policy or annuity
 - (e) unpaid debts arising out of the injury or death giving rise to compensation

Name and Address	Services Rendered	Amount of Debt
- <u></u>		

15. That I wish to claim the following property as exempt because I claimed residential real 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 1 2 unused amount that I was permitted to make under section (8) above up to a maximum of 3 \$5,000 in any property. (Examples: (a) if you claim \$34,000 under section (8), \$1,000 allowed 4 here; (b) if you claim \$30,000 under section (8), \$5,000 allowed here; (c) if you claim \$35,000 5 under section (8), no claim allowed here.) I further understand that the amount of my claim 6 under this section is after the deduction from the value of this property of the amount of any 7 valid lien or purchase money security interests and that tangible personal property purchased 8 within 90 days of this proceeding may not be exempt. 9 **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** 10 **Property Location** Amount of Liens Value of 11 or Purchase Money Debtor's **Security Interests** 12 **Interest** 13 14 15 16 17 REAL PROPERTY (I understand that if I wish to claim more than one parcel exempt, I must 18 attach additional pages setting forth the following information for each parcel claimed exempt): 19 **Property Location** County _____ Township ____ 20 Street Address 21 22 **Legal Description:** 23 Number by which county tax assessor identifies property 24 25 26 Description (Attach a copy of your deed or other instrument of conveyance that describes the property and indicate here: _____ or describe the property in as much detail as possible. 27 28 Attach additional sheets if necessary.) 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 Record Owner(s): 36 37 38 39 40 Estimated Value: Lienholders: 41 (1) Name _____ Current Balance _____ 42 Address 43 (2) Name _____ Current Balance _____ 44 45 Address (3) Name _____Current Balance _____ 46 Address 47 48

(4) If others, attach additional pages.

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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

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described in section 40 Type of Retirement Ac	` '	Name of A		Account Number
17. That I wish to	 claim as e	xempt the fo	 ollowing fu	nds I hold in a college savings pl
				nis exemption, the college saving
must qualify as a colle	ge saving	s plan under	section 52	9 of the Internal Revenue Code, a
				tually be used for my child's col
				ny funds I placed in this account
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- (d) Notice to Persons Affected. If the judgment debtor moves to designate his exemptions, a copy of the motion and schedule must be served on the judgment creditor as provided in G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5.
 - (e) Procedure for Setting Aside Exempt Property.
 - (1) When served with the notice provided in G.S. 1C-1603(a)(4), under subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section, the judgment debtor may either file a 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 (4) of subsection (a) 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 his the debtor's making available to judgment creditors money or property not otherwise available to them in an amount

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equivalent to the excess value. Priorities of judgment creditors are the same in the substituted property as they were in the original property.

- Appeal from a designation of exempt property by the clerk is to the district (12)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 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 judgment 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.
 - 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 issued before that date.

PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 4.1. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.

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