

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1077\*  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H1077-PCS80433-RL-38

Short Title: Venue/Municipalities in Multiple Districts. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 6, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE VENUE RULES AND THE AUTHORITY OF MAGISTRATES  
3 FOR MUNICIPALITIES LYING IN FOUR OR MORE COUNTIES, EACH OF WHICH  
4 IS IN A DIFFERENT JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-199(c) reads as rewritten:

7 "(c) A district court judge sitting at a seat of court described in this section may, in  
8 criminal cases, conduct preliminary hearings and try misdemeanors arising within the corporate  
9 limits of the municipality plus the territory embraced within a distance of one mile in all  
10 directions therefrom.

11 If the corporate limits of the municipality extend into two or more counties, each of which  
12 is in a separate district court district, a district court judge assigned to sit at the seat of court has  
13 the same authority over criminal cases arising in the municipality and the territory embraced  
14 within a distance of one mile in all directions that he would have if the corporate limits of the  
15 municipality were solely located in a single district court district. Judges assigned to sit in such  
16 a municipality shall be assigned by the chief district court judge serving the district in which a  
17 majority of the voters of the municipality reside, but offenses arising in ~~the~~ a portion of the  
18 municipality in which ~~the~~ a minority of the voters reside shall not be disposed of in the  
19 municipality unless the chief district court judge for that district consents in writing to the  
20 disposition of criminal cases in the municipality. However, for charges brought by municipal  
21 law enforcement officers only, if the corporate limits of the municipality extend into four or  
22 more counties, each of which is in a separate district court district, offenses arising in a portion  
23 of the municipality in which a minority of the voters reside shall be disposed of in the portion  
24 of the municipality in which a majority of the voters reside without obtaining the consent of the  
25 chief district court judge for the district in which the offense occurred."

26 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 7A-293 reads as rewritten:

27 "**§ 7A-293. Special authority of a magistrate assigned to a municipality located in more**  
28 **than one county of a district court district.**

29 A magistrate assigned to an incorporated municipality, the boundaries of which lie in more  
30 than one county of a district court district, may, in criminal matters, exercise the powers  
31 granted by G.S. 7A-273 as if the corporate limits plus the territory embraced within a distance  
32 of one mile in all directions therefrom were located wholly within the magistrate's county of  
33 residence. Appeals from a magistrate exercising the authority granted by this section shall be  
34 taken in the district court in the county in which the offense was committed. A magistrate



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1 exercising the special authority granted by this section shall transmit all records, reports, and  
2 monies collected to the clerk of the superior court of the county in which the offense was  
3 committed. In addition, if a magistrate is assigned to an incorporated municipality, the  
4 boundaries of which lie in two or more district court districts, the magistrate may exercise the  
5 powers described in this section as if ~~both the~~ counties were in the same district court district, if  
6 the clerks of superior court and the chief district court judges serving ~~both the~~ districts in which  
7 the municipality is located agree in writing that the exercise of this special authority would  
8 promote the administration of justice in the municipality and in ~~both the~~ districts. However, if a  
9 magistrate is assigned to an incorporated municipality, the boundaries of which lie in four or  
10 more counties, each of which is in a separate district court district, the magistrate may exercise  
11 the powers described in this section as if all the counties were in the same district court district,  
12 without the necessity of such an agreement between the clerks and judges of the affected  
13 counties, and the records, reports, and monies collected in connection with the exercise of that  
14 authority shall be transmitted to the clerk of the superior court district for which the  
15 municipality is a seat of court."

16 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 15A-131(c) reads as rewritten:

17 "(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, venue for probable cause hearings  
18 and trial proceedings in cases within the original jurisdiction of the superior court lies in the  
19 county where the charged offense occurred. ~~If Except as otherwise provided in this subsection,~~  
20 if the alleged offense is committed within the corporate limits of a municipality which is the  
21 seat of superior court and is located in more than one county, venue lies in the superior court  
22 which sits within that municipality, but upon timely objection of the defendant or the district  
23 attorney in the county in which the alleged offense occurred the case must be transferred to the  
24 county in which the alleged offense occurred. However, for charges brought by municipal law  
25 enforcement officers only, if the alleged offense is committed within the corporate limits of a  
26 municipality that extends into four or more counties, each of which is in a separate superior  
27 court district, offenses committed within the corporate limits of the municipality but in a  
28 superior court district other than the one for which the municipality is the seat of superior court  
29 shall be disposed of in the municipality with no allowance for objections by the defendant or  
30 the district attorney."

31 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2009, and applies to  
32 offenses committed on or after that date.