

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

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HOUSE BILL 494  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/25/11  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H494-PCS11234-SA-55

Short Title: Continuous Alcohol Monitoring Law Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 29, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF CONTINUOUS ALCOHOL MONITORING SYSTEMS  
3 AS A CONDITION OF PRETRIAL RELEASE, AS A CONDITION OF PROBATION,  
4 TO MITIGATE PUNISHMENTS FOR IMPAIRED DRIVING OFFENSES; AND TO  
5 ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH CHILD CUSTODY AND VISITATION ORDERS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 15A-534(a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a) In determining conditions of pretrial release a judicial official must impose at least  
9 one of the following conditions:

- 10 (1) Release the defendant on his written promise to appear.  
11 (2) Release the defendant upon his execution of an unsecured appearance bond  
12 in an amount specified by the judicial official.  
13 (3) Place the defendant in the custody of a designated person or organization  
14 agreeing to supervise him.  
15 (4) Require the execution of an appearance bond in a specified amount secured  
16 by a cash deposit of the full amount of the bond, by a mortgage pursuant to  
17 G.S. 58-74-5, or by at least one solvent surety.  
18 (5) House arrest with electronic monitoring.

19 If condition (5) is imposed, the defendant must execute a secured appearance bond under  
20 subdivision (4) of this subsection. If condition (3) is imposed, however, the defendant may  
21 elect to execute an appearance bond under subdivision (4). If the defendant is required to  
22 provide fingerprints pursuant to G.S. 15A-502(a1) or (a2), or a DNA sample pursuant to  
23 G.S. 15A-266.3A or G.S. 15A-266.4, and (i) the fingerprints or DNA sample have not yet been  
24 taken or (ii) the defendant has refused to provide the fingerprints or DNA sample, the judicial  
25 official shall make the collection of the fingerprints or DNA sample a condition of pretrial  
26 release. The judicial official may also place restrictions on the travel, associations, conduct, or  
27 place of abode of the defendant as conditions of pretrial release. The judicial official may  
28 include as a condition of pretrial release that the defendant abstain from alcohol consumption,  
29 as verified by the use of an approved continuous alcohol monitoring system, and that any  
30 violation of this condition be reported by the monitoring provider to the district attorney.

31 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 15A-534.1(a)(2) reads as rewritten:

32 "(2) A judge may impose the following conditions on pretrial release:



\* H 4 9 4 - P C S 1 1 2 3 4 - S A - 5 5 \*

- 1 a. That the defendant stay away from the home, school, business or  
 2 place of employment of the alleged ~~victim~~; victim.  
 3 b. That the defendant refrain from assaulting, beating, molesting, or  
 4 wounding the alleged ~~victim~~; victim.  
 5 c. That the defendant refrain from removing, damaging or injuring  
 6 specifically identified ~~property~~; property.  
 7 d. That the defendant may visit his or her child or children at times and  
 8 places provided by the terms of any existing order entered by a  
 9 judge.  
 10 e. That the defendant abstain from alcohol consumption, as verified by  
 11 the use of an approved continuous alcohol monitoring system, and  
 12 that any violation of this condition be reported by the monitoring  
 13 provider to the district attorney.

14 The conditions set forth above may be imposed in addition to requiring that  
 15 the defendant execute a secured appearance bond."

16 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 15A-1340.11(6) reads as rewritten:

17 "(6) Intermediate punishment. – A sentence in a criminal case that places an  
 18 offender on supervised probation and includes at least one of the following  
 19 conditions:

- 20 a. Special probation as defined in G.S. 15A-1351(a).  
 21 b. Assignment to a residential program.  
 22 c. House arrest with electronic monitoring.  
 23 d. Intensive probation.  
 24 e. Assignment to a day-reporting center.  
 25 f. Assignment to a drug treatment court program.  
 26 g. Abstinence from alcohol consumption and compliance with  
 27 recommended treatment, as verified by a continuous alcohol  
 28 monitoring system approved by the Department of Correction when  
 29 alcohol dependency or chronic abuse has been identified by a  
 30 substance abuse assessment."

31 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 15A-1343(b), as amended by S.L. 2011-62, reads as rewritten:

- 32 "(b) Regular Conditions. – As regular conditions of probation, a defendant must:  
 33 (1) Commit no criminal offense in any jurisdiction.  
 34 (2) Remain accessible to the probation officer by making the defendant's  
 35 whereabouts known to the officer and not leave the county of residence or  
 36 the State of North Carolina unless granted written permission to leave by the  
 37 court or his probation officer.  
 38 (3) Report as directed by the court or his probation officer to the officer at  
 39 reasonable times and places and in a reasonable manner, permit the officer to  
 40 visit him at reasonable times, answer all reasonable inquiries by the officer  
 41 and obtain prior approval from the officer for, and notify the officer of, any  
 42 change in address or employment.  
 43 (4) Satisfy child support and other family obligations as required by the court. If  
 44 the court requires the payment of child support, the amount of the payments  
 45 shall be determined as provided in G.S. 50-13.4(c).  
 46 (5) Possess no firearm, explosive device or other deadly weapon listed in  
 47 G.S. 14-269 without the written permission of the court.  
 48 (6) Pay a supervision fee as specified in subsection (c1).  
 49 (7) Remain gainfully and suitably employed or faithfully pursue a course of  
 50 study or of vocational training that will equip him for suitable employment.  
 51 A defendant pursuing a course of study or of vocational training shall abide

1 by all of the rules of the institution providing the education or training, and  
2 the probation officer shall forward a copy of the probation judgment to that  
3 institution and request to be notified of any violations of institutional rules  
4 by the defendant.

- 5 (8) Notify the probation officer if he fails to obtain or retain satisfactory  
6 employment.
- 7 (9) Pay the costs of court, any fine ordered by the court, and make restitution or  
8 reparation as provided in subsection (d).
- 9 (10) Pay the State of North Carolina for the costs of appointed counsel, public  
10 defender, or appellate defender to represent him in the case(s) for which he  
11 was placed on probation.
- 12 (11) Repealed by Session Law 2011-62.
- 13 (12) Attend and complete an abuser treatment program if (i) the court finds the  
14 defendant is responsible for acts of domestic violence and (ii) there is a  
15 program, approved by the Domestic Violence Commission, reasonably  
16 available to the defendant, unless the court finds that such would not be in  
17 the best interests of justice.
- 18 (13) Submit at reasonable times to warrantless searches by a probation officer of  
19 the probationer's person and of the probationer's vehicle and premises while  
20 the probationer is present, for purposes directly related to the probation  
21 supervision, but the probationer may not be required to submit to any other  
22 search that would otherwise be unlawful.
- 23 (14) Submit to warrantless searches by a law enforcement officer of the  
24 probationer's person and of the probationer's vehicle, upon a reasonable  
25 suspicion that the probationer is engaged in criminal activity or is in  
26 possession of a firearm, explosive device, or other deadly weapon listed in  
27 G.S. 14-269 without written permission of the court.
- 28 (15) Not use, possess, or control any illegal drug or controlled substance unless it  
29 has been prescribed for him or her by a licensed physician and is in the  
30 original container with the prescription number affixed on it; not knowingly  
31 associate with any known or previously convicted users, possessors, or  
32 sellers of any such illegal drugs or controlled substances; and not knowingly  
33 be present at or frequent any place where such illegal drugs or controlled  
34 substances are sold, kept, or used.
- 35 (16) Supply a breath, urine, or blood specimen for analysis of the possible  
36 presence of prohibited drugs or alcohol when instructed by the defendant's  
37 probation officer for purposes directly related to the probation supervision. If  
38 the results of the analysis are positive, the probationer may be required to  
39 reimburse the Department of Correction for the actual costs of drug or  
40 alcohol screening and testing.

41 ~~A defendant shall not pay costs associated with a substance abuse monitoring program or~~  
42 ~~any other special condition of probation in lieu of, or prior to, the payments required by this~~  
43 ~~subsection.~~

44 In addition to these regular conditions of probation, a defendant required to serve an active  
45 term of imprisonment as a condition of special probation pursuant to G.S. 15A-1344(e) or  
46 G.S. 15A-1351(a) shall, as additional regular conditions of probation, obey the rules and  
47 regulations of the Department of Correction governing the conduct of inmates while  
48 imprisoned and report to a probation officer in the State of North Carolina within 72 hours of  
49 his discharge from the active term of imprisonment.

50 Regular conditions of probation apply to each defendant placed on supervised probation  
51 unless the presiding judge specifically exempts the defendant from one or more of the

1 conditions in open court and in the judgment of the court. It is not necessary for the presiding  
2 judge to state each regular condition of probation in open court, but the conditions must be set  
3 forth in the judgment of the court.

4 Defendants placed on unsupervised probation are subject to the provisions of this  
5 subsection, except that defendants placed on unsupervised probation are not subject to the  
6 regular conditions contained in subdivisions (2), (3), (6), (8), (13), (14), (15), and (16) of this  
7 subsection."

8 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 15A-1343(b1) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

9 "(b1) Special Conditions. – In addition to the regular conditions of probation specified in  
10 subsection (b), the court may, as a condition of probation, require that during the probation the  
11 defendant comply with one or more of the following special conditions:

12 ...

13 (2c) Abstain from alcohol consumption and submit to continuous alcohol  
14 monitoring when alcohol dependency or chronic abuse has been identified  
15 by a substance abuse assessment.

16 ...."

17 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 15A-1343.2(f) reads as rewritten:

18 "(f) Delegation to Probation Officer in Intermediate Punishments. – Unless the presiding  
19 judge specifically finds in the judgment of the court that delegation is not appropriate, the  
20 Division of Community Corrections in the Department of Correction may require an offender  
21 sentenced to intermediate punishment to:

- 22 (1) Perform up to 50 hours of community service, and pay the fee prescribed by  
23 law for this ~~supervision;~~supervision.
- 24 (2) Submit to a curfew which requires the offender to remain in a specified  
25 place for a specified period each day and wear a device that permits the  
26 offender's compliance with the condition to be monitored  
27 ~~electronically;~~electronically.
- 28 (3) Submit to substance abuse assessment, monitoring or ~~treatment;~~ or treatment,  
29 including continuous alcohol monitoring when abstinence from alcohol  
30 consumption has been specified as a term of probation.
- 31 (4) Participate in an educational or vocational skills development program.
- 32 (5) Submit to satellite-based monitoring pursuant to Part 5 of Article 27A of  
33 Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, if the defendant is described by  
34 G.S. 14-208.40(a)(2).

35 If the Division imposes any of the above requirements, then it may subsequently reduce or  
36 remove those same requirements.

37 If the probation officer exercises authority delegated to him or her by the court pursuant to  
38 this subsection, the offender may file a motion with the court to review the action taken by the  
39 probation officer. The offender shall be given notice of the right to seek such a court review.  
40 The Division may exercise any authority delegated to it under this subsection only if it first  
41 determines that the offender has failed to comply with one or more of the conditions of  
42 probation imposed by the court."

43 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 15A-1343.3 reads as rewritten:

44 "**§ 15A-1343.3. Department of Corrections to establish regulations for continuous alcohol**  
45 **monitoring ~~systems;~~systems; payment of fees; authority to terminate**  
46 **monitoring.**

47 (a) The Department of Correction shall establish regulations for continuous alcohol  
48 monitoring systems that are authorized for use by the courts as evidence that an offender on  
49 probation has abstained from the use of alcohol for a specified period of time. A "continuous  
50 alcohol monitoring system" is a device that is worn by a person that can detect, monitor, record,  
51 and report the amount of alcohol within the wearer's system over a continuous 24-hour daily

1 basis. The regulations shall include the procedures for supervision of the offender, collection  
2 and monitoring of the results, and the transmission of the data to the court for consideration by  
3 the court. All courts, including those using continuous alcohol monitoring systems prior to July  
4 4, 2007, shall comply with the regulations established by the Department pursuant to this  
5 section.

6 The Secretary, or the Secretary's designee, shall approve continuous alcohol monitoring  
7 systems for use by the courts prior to their use by a court as evidence of alcohol abstinence, or  
8 their use as a condition of probation. The Secretary shall not unreasonably withhold approval of  
9 a continuous alcohol monitoring system and shall consult with the Division of Purchase and  
10 Contract in the Department of Administration to ensure that potential vendors are not  
11 discriminated against.

12 (b) Any fees or costs paid by an offender on probation in order to comply with  
13 continuous alcohol monitoring shall be paid directly to the monitoring provider. A monitoring  
14 provider shall not terminate the provision of continuous alcohol monitoring for nonpayment of  
15 fees unless authorized by the court."

16 **SECTION 8.** Article 82 of Chapter 15A of the General Statutes is amended by  
17 adding a new section to read:

18 **"§ 15A-1343.4. Discretionary use of continuous alcohol monitoring systems in DWI and**  
19 **drug courts.**

20 Discretionary use of continuous alcohol monitoring systems for offenders who are not  
21 required by law as a condition of pretrial release or probation abstain from the use of alcohol  
22 for a specified period of time shall be permitted and may be imposed in a matter before a Drug  
23 Treatment Program Court in the sole discretion of the judge presiding."

24 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 20-28(a) reads as rewritten:

25 "(a) Driving While License Revoked. – Except as provided in subsection (a1) of this  
26 section, any person whose drivers license has been revoked who drives any motor vehicle upon  
27 the highways of the State while the license is revoked is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Upon  
28 conviction, the person's license shall be revoked for an additional period of one year for the  
29 first offense, two years for the second offense, and permanently for a third or subsequent  
30 offense.

31 If the person's license was originally revoked for an impaired driving revocation, the court  
32 may order as a condition of probation that the offender abstain from alcohol consumption and  
33 verify compliance by use of a continuous alcohol monitoring for a minimum period of 90 days.

34 The restoree of a revoked drivers license who operates a motor vehicle upon the highways  
35 of the State without maintaining financial responsibility as provided by law shall be punished  
36 as for driving without a license."

37 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 20-179 reads as rewritten:

38 **"§ 20-179. Sentencing hearing after conviction for impaired driving; determination of**  
39 **grossly aggravating and aggravating and mitigating factors; punishments.**

40 ...

41 (g) Level One Punishment. – A defendant subject to Level One punishment may be  
42 fined up to four thousand dollars (\$4,000) and shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment  
43 that includes a minimum term of not less than 30 days and a maximum term of not more than  
44 24 months. The term of imprisonment may be suspended only if a condition of special  
45 probation is imposed to require the defendant to serve a term of imprisonment of at least 30  
46 days. A judge may reduce the minimum term of imprisonment required to a term of not less  
47 than 10 days if a condition of special probation is imposed to require that a defendant abstain  
48 from alcohol consumption and be monitored by a continuous alcohol monitoring system  
49 approved by the Department of Correction for a period of not less than 120 days. If the  
50 defendant is monitored on an approved continuous alcohol monitoring system during the  
51 pretrial period, up to 60 days of pretrial monitoring may be credited against the 120-day

1 monitoring requirement for probation. If the defendant is placed on probation, the judge shall  
2 impose a requirement that the defendant obtain a substance abuse assessment and the education  
3 or treatment required by G.S. 20-17.6 for the restoration of a drivers license and as a condition  
4 of probation. The judge may impose any other lawful condition of probation.

5 (h) Level Two Punishment. – A defendant subject to Level Two punishment may be  
6 fined up to two thousand dollars (\$2,000) and shall be sentenced to a term of imprisonment that  
7 includes a minimum term of not less than seven days and a maximum term of not more than 12  
8 months. The term of imprisonment may be suspended only if a condition of special probation is  
9 imposed to require the defendant to serve a term of imprisonment of at least seven ~~days~~days or  
10 to abstain from consuming alcohol for at least 90 consecutive days, as verified by a continuous  
11 alcohol monitoring system approved by the Department of Correction. If the defendant is  
12 monitored on an approved continuous alcohol monitoring system during the pretrial period, up  
13 to 60 days of pretrial monitoring may be credited against the 90-day monitoring requirement  
14 for probation. If the defendant is placed on probation, the judge shall impose a requirement that  
15 the defendant obtain a substance abuse assessment and the education or treatment required by  
16 G.S. 20-17.6 for the restoration of a drivers license and as a condition of probation. The judge  
17 may impose any other lawful condition of probation.

18 ~~(h1) The judge may impose, as a condition of probation for defendants subject to Level~~  
19 ~~One or Level Two punishments, that the defendant abstain from alcohol consumption for a~~  
20 ~~minimum of 30 days, to a maximum of 60 days, as verified by a continuous alcohol monitoring~~  
21 ~~system. The total cost to the defendant for the continuous alcohol monitoring system may not~~  
22 ~~exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The defendant's abstinence from alcohol shall be verified~~  
23 ~~by a continuous alcohol monitoring system of a type approved by the Department of~~  
24 ~~Correction.~~

25 ~~(h2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (h1), if the court finds, upon good~~  
26 ~~cause shown, that the defendant should not be required to pay the costs of the continuous~~  
27 ~~alcohol monitoring system, the court shall not impose the use of a continuous alcohol~~  
28 ~~monitoring system unless the local governmental entity responsible for the incarceration of the~~  
29 ~~defendant in the local confinement facility agrees to pay the costs of the system.~~

30 ~~(h3) Any fees or costs paid pursuant to subsections (h1) or (h2) of this section shall be~~  
31 ~~paid to the clerk of court for the county in which the judgment was entered or the deferred~~  
32 ~~prosecution agreement was filed. Fees or costs collected under this subsection shall be~~  
33 ~~transmitted to the entity providing the continuous alcohol monitoring system.~~

34 ...

35 (k2) Probationary Requirement for Abstinence and Use of Continuous Alcohol  
36 Monitoring. – The judge may order that as a condition of special probation for any level of  
37 offense under G.S. 20-179 the defendant abstain from alcohol consumption, as verified by a  
38 continuous alcohol monitoring system of a type approved by the Department of Correction.

39 (k3) The court, in the sentencing order, may authorize probation officers to require  
40 defendants to submit to continuous alcohol monitoring for assessment purposes if the defendant  
41 has been required to abstain from alcohol consumption during the term of probation, and the  
42 probation officer believes the defendant is consuming alcohol. The defendant shall bear the  
43 costs of the continuous alcohol monitoring system if the use of the system has been authorized  
44 by a judge in accordance with this subsection.

45 (k4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (g), (h), (k2), and (k3) of this section,  
46 if the court finds, upon good cause shown, that the defendant should not be required to pay the  
47 costs of the continuous alcohol monitoring system, the court shall not impose the use of a  
48 continuous alcohol monitoring system unless the local governmental entity responsible for the  
49 incarceration of the defendant in the local confinement facility agrees to pay the costs of the  
50 system.

51 ...."

1           **SECTION 11.** G.S. 50-13.2 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:  
2           "(b2) Any order for custody, including visitation, may, as a condition of such custody or  
3 visitation, require either or both parents, or any other person seeking custody or visitation, to  
4 abstain from consuming alcohol and may require submission to an approved continuous alcohol  
5 monitoring system to verify compliance with this condition of custody or visitation. Any order  
6 pursuant to this subsection shall include an order to the monitoring provider to report any  
7 violation of the order to the court and each party to the action. Failure to comply with this  
8 condition shall be grounds for civil or criminal contempt."  
9           **SECTION 12.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2011, and applies to  
10 offenses committed or any custody and visitation orders issued on or after that date.