

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 1072  
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/4/20  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H1072-PCS10851-MU-3

Short Title: GSC Technical Corrections 2020.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 14, 2020

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES AND  
3 SESSION LAWS AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE REGISTER OF DEEDS DOES NOT  
4 NEED TO VERIFY THE CAPACITY OR AUTHORITY OF THE PERSON LISTED AS  
5 THE DRAFTER OF A DEED OR DEED OF TRUST, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE  
6 GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 1C-1829 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 1C-1829. Enforcement of foreign judgments.**

10 Subject to the provisions of Article 17 and ~~18-20~~ of this Chapter:

11 ~~(a)~~(1) If an action is brought to enforce a judgment of another jurisdiction expressed  
12 in a foreign money and the judgment is recognized in this State as enforceable,  
13 the enforcing judgment shall be entered as provided in G.S. 1C-1826, whether  
14 or not the foreign judgment confers an option to pay in an equivalent amount  
15 of United States dollars.

16 ~~(b)~~(2) A foreign judgment may be filed or docketed in accordance with any rule or  
17 statute of this State providing a procedure for its recognition and enforcement.

18 ~~(c)~~(3) A satisfaction or partial payment made upon the foreign judgment, on proof  
19 thereof, shall be credited against the amount of foreign money specified in the  
20 judgment, notwithstanding the entry of judgment in this State.

21 ~~(d)~~(4) A judgment entered on a foreign-money claim only in United States dollars in  
22 another state shall be enforced in this State in United States dollars only."

23 **SECTION 1.5.** G.S. 28A-2-6(h) reads as rewritten:

24 "(h) Notice of Transfer. – A notice to transfer an estate proceeding brought pursuant to  
25 G.S. 28A-2-4(a)(4) must be served within 30 days after the moving party is served with a copy  
26 of the pleading requesting relief pursuant to G.S. 28A-2-4(a)(4), or in the case of the clerk of  
27 superior court, prior to or at the first hearing duly noticed in ~~such the~~ estate proceeding and prior  
28 to the presentation of evidence by the parties, including a hearing at which an order of  
29 continuance is entered. Failure to timely serve a notice of transfer of ~~a trust an estate~~ proceeding  
30 is a waiver of any objection to the clerk of superior court's exercise of jurisdiction over the ~~trust~~  
31 estate proceeding then pending before the clerk. When a notice of transfer is duly served and  
32 filed, the clerk shall transfer the proceeding to the appropriate court. The proceeding after the  
33 transfer is subject to the provisions of the General Statutes and to the rules that apply to actions  
34 initially filed in the court to which the proceeding was transferred."

35 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 36C-8B-13(b) reads as rewritten:



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1       "(d) Applicability. – This section applies only to group contracts, other than excepted  
2 benefits as defined in G.S. 58-68-25. For purposes of this section, "group health insurance  
3 contracts" include MEWAs, as defined in ~~G.S. 58-50A-60(a)~~ ~~[G.S. 58-50A-1]~~ G.S. 58-50A-1."

4       **SECTION 4.** G.S. 75A-5 reads as rewritten:

5       **"§ 75A-5. Application for certificate of number; fees; reciprocity; change of ownership;  
6 conformity with federal regulations; records; award of certificates; renewal of  
7 certificates; transfer of partial interest; destroyed or junked vessels;  
8 abandonment; change of address; duplicate certificates; display.**

9       (a) Application for Certificate of Number. – The owner of each vessel requiring  
10 numbering by this State shall file an application for a certificate of number with the Commission.  
11 The Commission shall furnish application forms and shall prescribe the information contained in  
12 the application form. The application shall be signed by the owner of the vessel or the owner's  
13 agent and shall be accompanied by a fee, as set out in subsection (a1) of this section. The fee  
14 does not apply to vessels owned and operated by nonprofit rescue squads if they are operated  
15 exclusively for rescue purposes, including rescue training. The owner shall have the option of  
16 selecting a one-year numbering period or a three-year numbering period. Upon receipt of the  
17 application in approved form, the Commission shall enter the application in its records and issue  
18 the owner a certificate of number stating the identification number awarded to the vessel and the  
19 name and address of the owner, and a validation decal indicating the expiration date of the  
20 certificate of number. The owner shall paint on or attach to each side of the bow of the vessel the  
21 identification number and validation decals in such manner as may be prescribed by rules of the  
22 Commission in order that it may be clearly visible. The identification number shall be maintained  
23 in legible condition. The certificate of number shall be pocket size and shall be available for  
24 inspection on the vessel for which the certificate is issued at all times the vessel is in operation.  
25 Any person charged with failing to so carry a certificate of number shall not be convicted if the  
26 person produces in court a certificate of number previously issued to the owner that was valid at  
27 the time of the alleged violation.

28       (a1) Fees. – The fees for certificates of number are as set out in this subsection:

29       (1) The fee for a certificate of number for a one-year period is:

- 30       a. Thirty dollars (\$30.00) for a vessel that is less than 26 feet in length.  
31       b. Fifty dollars (\$50.00) for a vessel that is 26 feet or more in length.

32       (2) The fee for a certificate of number for a three-year period is:

- 33       a. Ninety dollars (\$90.00) for a vessel that is less than 26 feet in length.  
34       b. One hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) for a vessel that is 26 feet or more  
35       in length.

36       ...

37       (c) Change of Ownership. – Should the ownership of a vessel change, a new application  
38 form with a fee in the amount set in ~~subsection (a)~~ subsection (a1) of this section shall be filed  
39 with the Commission and a new certificate bearing the same identification number shall be  
40 awarded to the new owner in the same manner as an original certificate of number. Possession  
41 of the certificate shall in cases involving prosecution for violation of any provision of this Chapter  
42 be prima facie evidence that the person whose name appears on the certificate is the owner of the  
43 vessel referred to on the certificate.

44       ...

45       (f) Records. – All records of the Commission made or kept pursuant to this section ~~shall~~  
46 be are public records.

47       ...

48       (h) Renewal of Certificates. – An owner of a vessel awarded a certificate of number  
49 pursuant to this Chapter shall renew the certificate on or before the first day of the month after  
50 which the certificate expires; otherwise, the certificate shall lapse and be void until ~~such time as~~  
51 ~~it may thereafter~~ be renewed. Application for renewal shall be submitted on a form approved by

1 the Commission and shall be accompanied by a fee in the amount set in subsection (a1) of this  
2 section.

3 ...."

4 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 136-44.2E(e), as enacted by Section 1.3(b) of S.L. 2019-251,  
5 reads as rewritten:

6 "(e) Evaluation of Emergency Reserve. – No later than February 1 of the first year of the  
7 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, and biennially thereafter, the Department of ~~the~~ Transportation shall  
8 submit a report on the Emergency Reserve to the House of Representatives Appropriations  
9 Committee on Transportation, the Senate Appropriations Committee on the Department of  
10 Transportation, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall contain the results of an  
11 evaluation of the Emergency Reserve, based on a methodology developed jointly by the Office  
12 of State Budget and Management and the Department of Transportation, to determine the  
13 minimum amount of funds needed in the Emergency Reserve."

14 **SECTION 5.1.** G.S. 143B-135.234(c) reads as rewritten:

15 "(c) Fund Purposes. – Moneys from the Fund are appropriated annually to finance projects  
16 to clean up or prevent surface water pollution and for land preservation in accordance with this  
17 Part. Revenue in the Fund may be used for any of the following purposes:

- 18 (1) To acquire land for riparian buffers for the purposes of providing  
19 environmental protection for surface waters and drinking water supplies and  
20 establishing a network of riparian greenways for environmental, educational,  
21 and recreational uses.

22 ...."

23 **SECTION 5.2.** G.S. 143B-1406 reads as rewritten:

24 "**§ 143B-1406. Fund distribution to PSAPs.**

25 ...

26 (b) Percentage Designations. – The 911 Board must determine how revenue that is  
27 allocated to the 911 Fund for distribution to primary PSAPs and is not needed to make the base  
28 amount distribution required by subdivision (a)(1) of this section is to be used. The 911 Board  
29 must designate a percentage of the remaining funds to be distributed to primary PSAPs on a per  
30 capita basis and a percentage to be allocated to the Accounts established in G.S. 143B-1407. If  
31 the 911 Board does not designate an amount to be allocated to ~~such~~ the Accounts, the 911 Board  
32 must distribute all of the remaining funds to regional or primary PSAPs on a per capita basis.  
33 The 911 Board may not change the percentage designation more than once each fiscal year.

34 (c) Carryforward. – A PSAP may carry forward distributions for eligible expenditures  
35 for capital outlay, capital improvements, or equipment replacement if shown pursuant to  
36 subsection (f) of this section. The 911 Board may allow a PSAP to carry forward a greater amount  
37 without changing the PSAP's distribution. Amounts carried forward to the next fiscal year from  
38 distributions made by the 911 Board may not be used to lower the distributions in subsection (a)  
39 of this ~~section unless~~ section, unless either of the following is true:

- 40 (1) The amount is greater than twenty percent (20%) of the average yearly amount  
41 distributed to the PSAP in the prior two ~~years;~~ or years.  
42 (2) The amount in subsection (a) of this section is modified based upon the  
43 Board's expenditures for statewide 911 projects or the PSAP's migration to a  
44 next generation 911 network.

45 (d) Use of Funds. – A PSAP that receives a distribution from the 911 Fund may not use  
46 the amount received to pay for the lease or purchase of real estate, cosmetic remodeling of  
47 emergency dispatch centers, hiring or compensating telecommunicators, or the purchase of  
48 mobile communications vehicles, ambulances, fire engines, or other emergency vehicles.  
49 Distributions received by a PSAP may be used only to pay for the following:

- 50 (1) The lease, purchase, or maintenance of:

- 1 a. Emergency telephone equipment, including necessary computer
- 2 hardware, software, and database provisioning.
- 3 b. Addressing, provided that addressing shall not be paid following the
- 4 earlier of July 1, 2021, or compliance with
- 5 G.S. 143B-1406(e1).subsection (e1) of this section.
- 6 ...
- 7 (4) Charges associated with the service supplier's 911 service and other service
- 8 supplier recurring charges. The PSAP providing 911 service is responsible to
- 9 the communications service provider for all 911 installation, service,
- 10 equipment, operation, and maintenance charges owed to the communications
- 11 service provider. A PSAP may contract with a communications service
- 12 provider on terms agreed to by the PSAP and the provider. Service supplier
- 13 911 service and other recurring charges supplanted by the State ESInet costs
- 14 paid by the Board shall not be paid from distributions to PSAPs following the
- 15 earlier of July 1, 2021, or compliance with G.S. 143B-1406(e1).subsection
- 16 (e1) of this section.
- 17 ...
- 18 (f) Compliance. – A PSAP, or the governing entity of a PSAP, must comply with all of
- 19 the following in order to receive a distribution under this section:
- 20 ...
- 21 (5b) Persons employed as telecommunicators who are not required to be certified
- 22 by the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards
- 23 Commission shall successfully ~~complete~~complete all of the following:
- 24 a. A minimum of 40 hours in a nationally recognized training course for
- 25 911 telecommunicators or a basic telecommunicator course offered by
- 26 the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards
- 27 Commission within one year of the date of their employment for any
- 28 person beginning employment after July 1, 2019, or a substantially
- 29 similar minimum training acceptable to the telecommunicator's
- 30 ~~employer; and~~employer.
- 31 b. A nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch course or an
- 32 emergency medical dispatch course approved by the Office of
- 33 Emergency Medical Services not later than July 1, 2020, or if
- 34 employed subsequent to July 1, 2020, within six months of the date of
- 35 employment.
- 36 ...
- 37 (h) Every local government shall participate in a 911 system. The establishment and
- 38 operation of regional PSAPs shall be a coordinated effort among local governments, local
- 39 government agencies, and the Board. Nothing in this ~~article shall be construed to prohibit or~~
- 40 ~~discourage~~ Article prohibits or discourages in any way the formation of regional PSAPs."
- 41 **SECTION 5.3.(a)** G.S. 146-30 is amended by adding a new subsection (d).
- 42 Subsections (b1), (b2), (b3), and (b4) of G.S. 146-30 are recodified as subdivisions (1) through
- 43 (4), respectively, of the new subsection (d) of that section. The second sentence through the last
- 44 sentence of subsection (c) of G.S. 146-30 are recodified into the new subsection (d) of that section
- 45 to follow subdivision (d)(4).
- 46 **SECTION 5.3.(b)** G.S. 146-30, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, reads
- 47 as rewritten:
- 48 **"§ 146-30. Application of net proceeds.**
- 49 (a) The net proceeds of any disposition made in accordance with this Subchapter shall be
- 50 handled in accordance with the following priority:

1           (1)     First, in accordance with the provisions of any trust or other instrument of title  
2                    whereby title to ~~such~~ real property was ~~heretofore acquired or is hereafter~~  
3                    ~~acquired;~~ acquired.

4           (2)     ~~second,~~ Second, as provided by any other act of the General ~~Assembly;~~  
5                    Assembly.

6           (3)     ~~third,~~ Third, by depositing the net proceeds ~~shall be deposited~~ with the State  
7                    Treasurer.

8 ~~Provided, however, nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting~~ Nothing in this section,  
9 ~~however, prohibits~~ the disposition of any State lands by exchange for other lands, but if the  
10 appraised value in fee simple of any property involved in the exchange is at least twenty-five  
11 thousand dollars (\$25,000), then ~~such~~ the exchange may shall not be made without consultation  
12 with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

13           (a1)    Expired January 1, 2016, pursuant to Session Laws 2011-373, s. 2.

14           (b)     For the purposes of this Subchapter, the term "net proceeds" means the gross amount  
15 received from the sale, lease, rental, or other disposition of any State lands, less all of the  
16 following:

17           (1)     ~~Such expenses~~ Expenses incurred incident to that sale, lease, rental, or other  
18 disposition ~~as may be that are~~ allowed under rules ~~and regulations~~ adopted by  
19 the Governor and approved by the Council of ~~State;~~ and State.

20           (2)     Repealed by Session Laws 1993, c. 553, s. 52.2.

21           (3)     A service charge to be paid into the State Land Fund.

22           (b1), (b2), (b3), (b4) Recodified.

23           (c)     The amount or rate of ~~such~~ the service charge described in subsection (b) of this  
24 section shall be fixed by rules ~~and regulations~~ adopted by the Governor and approved by the  
25 Council of State, but as to any particular sale, lease, rental, or other disposition, it shall not exceed  
26 ten percent (10%) of the gross amount received from ~~such~~ the sale, lease, rental, or other  
27 disposition.

28           (d)     Notwithstanding any other provision of this Subchapter, the following exceptions  
29 apply:

30           (1)     ~~Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no~~ No service charge into  
31 the State Land Fund shall be deducted from or levied against the proceeds of  
32 any disposition by lease, rental, or easement of State lands that are designated  
33 as part of the Centennial Campus as defined by G.S. 116-198.33(4), that are  
34 designated as part of the Horace Williams Campus as defined by  
35 G.S. 116-198.33(4a), or that are designated as part of a Millennial Campus as  
36 defined by G.S. 116-198.33(4b). All net proceeds of those dispositions are  
37 governed by G.S. 116-36.5.

38           (2)     ~~Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no~~ No service charge into  
39 the State Land Fund shall be deducted from or levied against the proceeds of  
40 any disposition by lease, rental, or easement of State lands purchased and  
41 owned by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, Department of Public  
42 Safety, as part of the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders  
43 (VIPER) project being managed by the North Carolina State Highway Patrol,  
44 Department of Public Safety. All net proceeds of these dispositions shall be  
45 deposited into an account created in the Department of Public Safety to be  
46 used only for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, or supporting the  
47 VIPER network.

48           (3)     ~~Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no~~ No service charge into  
49 the State Land Fund shall be deducted from or levied against the proceeds of  
50 any disposition by lease, rental, or easement of State lands or structures for  
51 the collocation, installation, or operation of equipment by a broadband

1 provider on an existing structure owned by the State in accordance with  
2 G.S. 146-29.2. The agency that owns the land or structure subject to the lease,  
3 rental, or easement may retain an amount not to exceed four percent (4%) of  
4 the amount of the lease, rental, or easement. All net proceeds of those  
5 dispositions, after the amount retained by the agency, shall be deposited in the  
6 Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology Fund established  
7 pursuant to subsection (b) of G.S. 143B-1373.

8 (4) ~~Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, no~~ No service charge into  
9 the State Land Fund shall be deducted from or levied against the proceeds of  
10 any disposition by lease, rental, or easement of lands owned by the  
11 Department of Transportation. All net proceeds of those dispositions shall be  
12 deposited into the State Highway Fund.

13 (5) ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this Subchapter, the~~ The net proceeds  
14 derived from the sale of land or products of land owned by or under the  
15 supervision and control of the Wildlife Resources Commission, or acquired  
16 or purchased with funds of that Commission, shall be paid into the Wildlife  
17 Resources Fund.

18 (6) ~~Provided, however, the~~ The net proceeds derived from the sale of land or  
19 timber from land owned by or under the supervision and control of the  
20 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall be deposited with the  
21 State Treasurer in a capital improvement account to the credit of the  
22 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, to be used for such  
23 specific capital improvement projects or other purposes as are provided by  
24 transfer of funds from those accounts in the Capital Improvement  
25 Appropriations Act.

26 (7) ~~Provided further, the~~ The net proceeds derived from the sale of park land  
27 owned by or under the supervision and control of the Department of Natural  
28 and Cultural Resources shall be deposited with the State Treasurer in a capital  
29 improvement account to the credit of the Department of Administration to be  
30 used for the purpose of park land acquisition as provided by transfer of funds  
31 from those accounts in the Capital Improvement Appropriations Act. In the  
32 Capital Improvement Appropriations Act, line items for purchase of park and  
33 agricultural lands will be established for use by the Departments of  
34 Administration and Agriculture. The use of ~~such~~ these funds for any specific  
35 capital improvement project or land acquisition is subject to approval by the  
36 Director of the Budget. No other use ~~may~~ shall be made of funds in these line  
37 items without approval by the General Assembly except for incidental  
38 expenses related to the project or land acquisition. ~~Additionally~~ Additionally,  
39 with the approval of the Director of the Budget, either Department may  
40 request funds from the Contingency and Emergency Fund when the necessity  
41 of prompt purchase of available land can be demonstrated and funds in the  
42 capital improvement accounts are insufficient.

43 (8) ~~Provided further, the~~ The net proceeds derived from the sale of any portion of  
44 the land owned by the State in ~~or around the~~ Butner Reservation ~~on or after~~  
45 July 1, 1980, the Camp Butner reservation shall be deposited with the State  
46 Treasurer in a capital improvement account to the credit of the Department of  
47 Health and Human Services to make capital improvements on or to property  
48 owned by the State in the ~~Butner Reservation~~ Camp Butner reservation subject  
49 to approval by the Office of State Budget and ~~Management, and may be used~~  
50 ~~to build industrial access roads to industries located or to be located on the~~  
51 ~~Butner Reservation, to construct new city streets in the Butner Reservation,~~

1 extend water and sewer service on the Butner Reservation, repair storm drains  
2 on the Butner Reservation, and for other capital uses on the Reservation as  
3 determined by the Secretary-Management. The definition of "Camp Butner  
4 reservation" in G.S. 122C-3 applies to this subdivision.

5 (9) ~~Provided further, notwithstanding any other provision of this Subchapter, the~~  
6 ~~The net~~ proceeds derived from the lease dispositions of land or facilities  
7 owned or under the supervision and control of East Carolina University's  
8 Division of Health Sciences for the delivery of health care services shall be  
9 deposited in clinical accounts at East Carolina University to be used to  
10 improve access to patient care.

11 (10) ~~Provided further, notwithstanding any other provision of this Subchapter, the~~  
12 ~~The net~~ proceeds derived from the sale of land, facilities, products, or timber  
13 owned by the Department of Transportation shall be deposited into the State  
14 Highway Fund."

15 **SECTION 5.4.** G.S. 153A-441 reads as rewritten:

16 **"§ 153A-441. County surveyor.**

17 A county may appoint as county surveyor a person ~~registered-licensed~~ as a professional land  
18 surveyor pursuant to ~~Chapter 89 as county surveyor.~~ Chapter 89C of the General Statutes."

19 **SECTION 5.5.** G.S. 163-105 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 163-105. Payment of expense of conducting primary elections.**

21 The expense of printing and distributing the poll and registration ~~books, blanks, and ballots~~  
22 ~~for those offices required by G.S. 163-109(b)~~ books and blanks to be furnished by the State, and  
23 the per diem and expenses of the State Board of Elections while engaged in the discharge of  
24 primary election duties imposed by law upon that Board, shall be paid by the State.

25 The expenses of printing and distributing ~~the ballots for those offices required by~~  
26 ~~G.S. 163-109(c) to be furnished by counties, ballots pursuant to G.S. 163-165.3~~ and the per diem  
27 (or salary) and expenses of the county board of elections and the chief judges and judges of  
28 election, while engaged in the discharge of primary election duties imposed by law upon them,  
29 shall be paid by the counties."

30 **SECTION 5.6.** G.S. 163-234 reads as rewritten:

31 **"§ 163-234. Counting absentee ballots by county board of elections.**

32 All absentee ballots returned to the county board of elections in the container-return  
33 envelopes shall be retained by the board to be counted by the county board of elections as ~~herein~~  
34 provided:follows:

35 (1) Only those absentee ballots returned to the county board of elections no later  
36 than 5:00 p.m. on the day before election day in a properly executed  
37 container-return envelope or absentee ballots received pursuant to  
38 ~~G.S. 163-231(b)(ii) or (iii)~~ G.S. 163-231(b)(2)b. or c. shall be counted, except  
39 to the extent federal law requires otherwise.

40 (2) The county board of elections shall meet at 5:00 p.m. on election day in the  
41 board office or other public location in the county courthouse for the purpose  
42 of counting all absentee ballots except those which have been challenged  
43 before 5:00 p.m. on election day and those received pursuant to  
44 ~~G.S. 163-231(b)(ii) or (iii)~~ G.S. 163-231(b)(2)b. or c. Any elector of the  
45 county shall be permitted to attend the meeting and allowed to observe the  
46 counting process, ~~provided so long as~~ the elector ~~shall does~~ not in any manner  
47 interfere with the election officials in the discharge of their duties.

48 ~~Provided, that the~~ The county board of elections ~~is authorized to~~ may begin  
49 counting absentee ballots issued under Article 21A of this Chapter between  
50 the hours of 9:00 ~~A.M.~~ a.m. and 5:00 ~~P.M.~~ p.m. and ~~to may~~ begin counting all  
51 absentee ballots between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. upon the



1 adoption of a resolution at least two weeks prior to the election ~~wherein in~~  
2 which the hour and place of counting absentee ballots shall be stated. ~~Such~~  
3 The resolution also may provide for an additional meeting following the day  
4 of the election and prior to the day of canvass to count absentee ballots  
5 received pursuant to ~~G.S. 163-231(b)(ii) or (iii)~~ G.S. 163-231(b)(2)b. or c. as  
6 provided in subdivision (11) of this section. A copy of the ~~resolutions~~  
7 resolution shall be published once a week for two weeks prior to the election,  
8 in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. Notice may  
9 additionally be made on a radio or television station or both, but ~~such the~~  
10 notice shall be in addition to the newspaper and other required notice. The  
11 count shall be continuous until completed and the members shall not separate  
12 or leave the counting place except for unavoidable necessity, except that if the  
13 count has been completed prior to the time the polls close, it shall be  
14 suspended until that time pending receipt of any additional ballots. Nothing in  
15 this section ~~shall prohibit~~ prohibits a county board of elections from taking  
16 preparatory steps for the count earlier than the times specified in this section,  
17 as long as the preparatory steps do not reveal to any individual not engaged in  
18 the actual count election results before the times specified in this subdivision  
19 for the count to begin. By way of illustration and not limitation, a preparatory  
20 step for the count would be the entry of tally cards from direct record  
21 electronic voting units into a computer for processing. The board shall not  
22 announce the result of the count before 7:30 p.m.

23 (3) Notwithstanding ~~the provisions of~~ subdivision (2) of this section, a county  
24 board of elections may, at each meeting at which it approves absentee ballot  
25 applications pursuant to ~~G.S. 163-230.1(e) and (e1)~~, G.S. 163-230.1(e) and  
26 (f), remove those ballots from their envelopes and have them read by an  
27 optical scanning machine, without printing the totals on the scanner. The  
28 board shall complete the counting of these ballots at the times provided in  
29 subdivision (2) of this section. The State Board of Elections shall provide  
30 instructions to county boards of elections for executing this procedure, and the  
31 instructions shall be designed to ensure the accuracy of the count, the  
32 participation of board members of both parties, and the secrecy of the results  
33 before election day. This subdivision applies only in counties that use optical  
34 scan devices to count absentee ballots.

35 ...  
36 (6) As each ballot envelope is opened, the board shall cause to be entered into a  
37 pollbook designated "Pollbook of Absentee Voters" the name of the absentee  
38 voter, or if the pollbook is computer-generated, the board shall check off the  
39 name. Preserving secrecy, the ballots shall be placed in the appropriate ballot  
40 boxes, at least one of which shall be provided for each type of ballot. The  
41 "Pollbook of Absentee Voters" shall also contain the names of all persons who  
42 voted under G.S. 163-227.2, 163-227.5, and 163-227.6, but those names may  
43 be printed by computer for inclusion in the pollbook.

44 After all ballots have been placed in the boxes, the counting process shall begin.  
45 If one-stop ballots under G.S. 163-227.2, 163-227.5, and 163-227.6 are counted  
46 electronically, that count shall commence at the time the polls close. If  
47 one-stop ballots are paper ballots counted manually, that count shall  
48 commence at the same time as other absentee ballots are counted.

49 If a challenge transmitted to the board on canvass day by a chief judge is sustained,  
50 the ballots challenged and sustained shall be withdrawn from the appropriate  
51 boxes, as provided in G.S. 163-89(e).

1 As soon as the absentee ballots have been counted and the names of the absentee  
2 voters entered in the pollbook as required ~~herein, in this subdivision,~~ the board  
3 members and assistants employed to count the absentee ballots shall each sign  
4 the pollbook immediately beneath the last absentee voter's name entered  
5 ~~therein, in the pollbook.~~ The county board of elections ~~shall be~~ is responsible  
6 for the safekeeping of the pollbook of absentee voters.

7 ...

8 (8) One copy of the absentee abstract shall be retained by the county board of  
9 elections and the totals appearing ~~thereon~~ on the absentee abstract shall be  
10 added to the final totals of all votes cast in the county for each office as  
11 determined on the official canvass.

12 (9) In the event a political party does not have a member of the county board of  
13 elections present at the meeting to count absentee ballots due to illness or other  
14 cause of the member, the counting shall not commence until the county party  
15 chairman of ~~said~~ the absent member, or a member of the party's county  
16 executive committee, is in attendance. ~~Such~~ The person shall act as an official  
17 witness to the counting and shall sign the absentee ballot abstract as an  
18 "observer".

19 ...

20 (11) The county board of elections shall meet after election day and prior to the  
21 date of canvass to determine ~~where~~ whether the container-return envelopes for  
22 absentee ballots received pursuant to ~~G.S. 163-231(b)(ii) or (iii)~~ has  
23 G.S. 163-231(b)(2)b. or c. have been properly executed. The county board of  
24 elections shall comply with the requirements of G.S. 163-230.1 for approval  
25 of applications. Any absentee ballots received pursuant to ~~G.S. 163-231(b)(ii)~~  
26 ~~or (iii)~~ G.S. 163-231(b)(2)b. or c. shall be counted by the county board of  
27 elections on the day of canvass. The county board of elections ~~is also~~  
28 ~~authorized to~~ may also meet following the day of the election and prior to the  
29 day of canvass to count absentee ballots received pursuant to  
30 ~~G.S. 163-231(b)(ii) or (iii)~~ G.S. 163-231(b)(2)b. or c. upon the adoption of a  
31 resolution pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section. The county board of  
32 elections shall comply with all other requirements of this section for the  
33 counting of ~~such~~ these absentee ballots."

34 **SECTION 5.7.** G.S. 164-16 reads as rewritten:

35 **"§ 164-16. Officers.**

36 At its regular June meeting in the odd-numbered years the Commission shall elect a ~~chairman~~  
37 chair and a ~~vice-chairman~~ vice-chair for a term of two years and until their successors are elected  
38 and assume the duties of their positions. The Revisor of Statutes shall be ex officio secretary of  
39 the Commission."

40 **SECTION 6.(a)** Section 4.1 of S.L. 2018-80 reads as rewritten:

41 **"SECTION 4.1.** Sections 1.2 and 1.3 of this act become effective October 1, 2018, and apply  
42 to instruments presented for registration on or after that date. Section 3.1 of this act becomes  
43 effective October 1, 2018. The remainder of this act is effective when this act becomes law and  
44 applies to mortgages and deeds of trust entered into before, on, or after that ~~date.~~ date and to other  
45 instruments under G.S. 47-18.3 executed before, on, or after August 1, 2020."

46 **SECTION 6.(b)** G.S. 47-17.1 reads as rewritten:

47 **"§ 47-17.1. Documents registered or ordered to be registered in certain counties to**  
48 **designate draftsman; exceptions.**

49 The register of deeds of any county in North Carolina shall not accept for registration, nor  
50 shall any judge order registration pursuant to G.S. 47-14, of any deeds or deeds of trust, executed  
51 after January 1, 1980, unless the first page of the deeds or deeds of trust bears an entry showing

1 the name of either the person or law firm who drafted the instrument. This section shall not apply  
2 to other instruments presented for registration. For the purposes of this section, the register of  
3 deeds shall accept the written representation of the individual presenting the deed or deed of trust  
4 for registration, or any individual reasonably related to the transaction, including, but not limited  
5 to, any employee of a title insurance company or agency purporting to be involved with the  
6 transaction, that the individual or law firm listed on the first page is a validly licensed attorney  
7 or validly existing law firm in this State or another jurisdiction within the United States; the drafter  
8 of the deed or deed of trust. The register of deeds shall not be required to verify or make inquiry  
9 concerning the capacity or authority of the person or entity shown as the drafter on the  
10 instrument."

11 **SECTION 6.(c)** This section becomes effective August 1, 2020.

12 **SECTION 7.** S.L. 2019-113 is amended by adding a new section to read:

13 "SECTION 6.1. The Revisor of Statutes shall cause to be printed, as annotations to the  
14 published General Statutes, all explanatory comments of the drafters of Sections 5 and 6 of this  
15 act as the Revisor may deem appropriate."

16 **SECTION 8.(a)** Section 4(c) of S.L. 2019-158 is repealed.

17 **SECTION 8.(b)** G.S. 15A-151.5(a) reads as rewritten:

18 "(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, the Administrative Office of the  
19 Courts shall make all confidential files maintained under G.S. 15A-151 electronically available  
20 to all prosecutors of this State if the criminal record was expunged on or after July 1, 2018, under  
21 any of the following:

22 ...

23 (7a) G.S. 15A-145.9. Expunction of records of certain offenses committed by  
24 human trafficking victims.

25 ...."

26 **SECTION 8.(c)** This section is retroactively effective December 1, 2019.

27 **SECTION 9.(a)** The introductory language of Section 3(e) of S.L. 2019-176 reads  
28 as rewritten:

29 "SECTION 3.(e) ~~G.S. 147-69.2(15) is amended by adding a new subdivision to~~  
30 ~~read:~~ G.S. 147-69.2(a)(15) reads as rewritten:"

31 **SECTION 9.(b)** G.S. 147-69.2(a)(15a) is repealed.

32 **SECTION 9.(c)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2020.

33 **SECTION 10.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
34 law.