

- 1 (8) Prepare and submit an annual report on the work of the Judicial
2 Department to the Chief Justice, and transmit a copy to each member
3 of the General Assembly;
- 4 (9) Assist the Chief Justice in performing his duties relating to the transfer
5 of district court judges for temporary or specialized duty;
- 6 (9a) Establish and operate systems and services that provide for electronic
7 filing in the court system and further provide electronic transaction
8 processing and access to court information systems pursuant to
9 G.S. 7A-343.2; and
- 10 (9b) Enter into contracts with one or more private vendors to provide for
11 the payment of fines, fees, and costs due to the court by credit, charge,
12 or debit cards; such contracts may provide for the assessment of a
13 convenience or transaction fee by the vendor to cover the costs of
14 providing this service;
- 15 (9c) Prescribe policies and procedures for the appointment and payment of
16 foreign language interpreters in those cases specified in
17 G.S. 7A-314(f). These policies and procedures shall be applied
18 uniformly throughout the General Court of Justice. These policies and
19 procedures may include reasonable fees, to be set by the Director, for
20 interpreter training and testing. These fees shall not exceed the costs
21 incurred by the Judicial Department in providing the training and
22 testing. After consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on
23 Governmental Operations, the Director may also convert contractual
24 foreign language interpreter positions to permanent State positions
25 when the Director determines that it is more cost-effective to do so;
- 26 (9d) Analyze the use of contractual positions in the Judicial Department
27 and, after consultation with the Joint Legislative Commission on
28 Governmental Operations, convert contractual positions to permanent
29 State positions when the Director determines it is in the best interests
30 of the Judicial Department to do so; and
- 31 (10) Perform such additional duties and exercise such additional powers as
32 may be prescribed by statute or assigned by the Chief Justice."

33 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 7A-794 and G.S. 7A-798 are repealed.

34 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 7A-801 reads as rewritten:

35 "**§ 7A-801. Plan for evaluation, monitoring and annual report.**

36 The Administrative Office of the Courts shall ~~develop a statewide model and~~
37 ~~conduct ongoing evaluations of~~ monitor all State-recognized and funded local drug
38 treatment court programs. A report of these evaluations shall be submitted courts,
39 prepare an annual report on the implementation, operation, and effectiveness of the
40 statewide drug treatment court program, and submit the report to the General Assembly
41 by March 1 of each year. Each local drug treatment court program shall submit
42 evaluation reports to the Administrative Office of the Courts as requested."

43 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 7A-314(f) reads as rewritten:

1 (f) In any case in which the Judicial Department is bearing the costs of
2 representation for a party and that party or a witness for that party does not speak or
3 understand the English language, and the court appoints a foreign language interpreter
4 to assist that party or witness, the reasonable fee for the interpreter's services is payable
5 from funds appropriated to the Administrative Office of the Courts. The court may also
6 appoint an interpreter, payable from funds appropriated to the Administrative Office of
7 the Courts, in cases where an interpreter is necessary to assist the court in the efficient
8 transaction of business. The appointment and payment shall be made in accordance with
9 G.S. 7A-343(9c)."

10 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 7A-10(b) reads as rewritten:

11 (b) The Chief Justice and each of the associate justices shall receive the annual
12 salary provided in Current Operations Appropriations Act. The Chief Justice shall
13 receive an annual salary that is at least two and seven-tenths percent (2.7%) greater than
14 the salary of the associate justices. Each justice is entitled to reimbursement for travel
15 and subsistence expenses at the rate allowed State employees generally."

16 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 7A-18(a) reads as rewritten:

17 (a) The Chief Judge and each associate judge of the Court of Appeals shall
18 receive the annual salary provided in the Current Operations Appropriations Act. The
19 Chief Judge shall receive an annual salary that is at least two and seven-tenths percent
20 (2.7%) greater than the salary of the associate judges. Each judge is entitled to
21 reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses at the rate allowed State employees
22 generally."

23 **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.