

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 514  
Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 5/5/09

Short Title: Magistrates Provide Appointment of Counsel.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 11, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN MAGISTRATES WITH THE AUTHORITY TO  
3 PROVIDE FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL WHEN AUTHORIZED BY THE  
4 CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 7A-292 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 7A-292. Additional powers of magistrates.

8 In addition to the jurisdiction and powers assigned in this Chapter to the magistrate in civil  
9 and criminal actions, each magistrate has the following additional powers:

- 10 (1) To administer ~~oaths;~~oaths.
- 11 (2) To punish for direct criminal contempt subject to the limitations contained in  
12 Chapter 5A of the General Statutes of North ~~Carolina;~~Carolina.
- 13 (3) When authorized by the chief district judge, to take depositions and  
14 examinations before ~~trial;~~trial.
- 15 (4) To issue subpoenas and capiases valid throughout the ~~county;~~county.
- 16 (5) To take affidavits for the verification of ~~pleadings;~~pleadings.
- 17 (6) To issue writs of habeas corpus ad testificandum, as provided in  
18 ~~G.S. 17-41;~~G.S. 17-41.
- 19 (7) To assign a year's allowance to the surviving spouse and a child's allowance  
20 to the children as provided in Chapter 30, Article 4, of the General  
21 ~~Statutes;~~Statutes.
- 22 (8) To take acknowledgments of instruments, as provided in  
23 ~~G.S. 47-1;~~G.S. 47-1.
- 24 (9) To perform the marriage ceremony, as provided in ~~G.S. 51-1;~~G.S. 51-1.
- 25 (10) To take acknowledgment of a written contract or separation agreement  
26 between husband and ~~wife;~~and wife.
- 27 (11) Repealed by Session Laws 1973, c. 503, s. 9.
- 28 (12) To assess contribution for damages or for work done on a dam, canal, or  
29 ditch, as provided in G.S. 156-15.
- 30 (13) Repealed by Session Laws 1973, c. 503, s. 9.
- 31 (14) To accept the filing of complaints and to issue summons pursuant to Article  
32 4 of Chapter 42A of the General Statutes in expedited eviction proceedings  
33 when the office of the clerk of superior court is closed.
- 34 (15) When authorized by the chief district judge, as permitted in  
35 G.S. 7A-146(11), to provide for appointment of counsel pursuant to Article  
36 36 of this Chapter."

37 SECTION 2. G.S. 7A-146 reads as rewritten:



1 "§ 7A-146. Administrative authority and duties of chief district judge.

2 The chief district judge, subject to the general supervision of the Chief Justice of the  
3 Supreme Court, has administrative supervision and authority over the operation of the district  
4 courts and magistrates in his district. These powers and duties include, but are not limited to,  
5 the following:

- 6 (1) Arranging schedules and assigning district judges for sessions of district  
7 ~~courts;~~courts.
- 8 (2) Arranging or supervising the calendaring of noncriminal matters for trial or  
9 ~~hearing;~~hearing.
- 10 (3) Supervising the clerk of superior court in the discharge of the clerical  
11 functions of the district ~~court;~~court.
- 12 (4) Assigning matters to magistrates, and consistent with the salaries set by the  
13 Administrative Officer of the Courts, prescribing times and places at which  
14 magistrates shall be available for the performance of their duties; however,  
15 the chief district judge may in writing delegate his authority to prescribe  
16 times and places at which magistrates in a particular county shall be  
17 available for the performance of their duties to another district court judge or  
18 the clerk of the superior court, and the person to whom such authority is  
19 delegated shall make monthly reports to the chief district judge of the times  
20 and places actually served by each ~~magistrate; and~~magistrate.
- 21 (5) Making arrangements with proper authorities for the drawing of civil court  
22 jury panels and determining which sessions of district court shall be jury  
23 ~~sessions;~~sessions.
- 24 (6) Arranging for the reporting of civil cases by court reporters or other  
25 authorized ~~means;~~means.
- 26 (7) Arranging sessions, to the extent practicable for the trial of specialized cases,  
27 including traffic, domestic relations, and other types of cases, and assigning  
28 district judges to preside over these sessions so as to permit maximum  
29 practicable specialization by individual ~~judges;~~judges.
- 30 (8) Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c. 900, s. 118(b),  
31 effective July 15, 1992.
- 32 (9) Assigning magistrates during an emergency to temporary duty outside the  
33 county of their residence but within that district; and, upon the request of a  
34 chief district judge of an adjoining district and upon the approval of the  
35 Administrative Officer of the Courts, to temporary duty in the district of the  
36 requesting chief district ~~judge; and~~judge.
- 37 (10) Designating another district judge of his district as acting chief district judge,  
38 to act during the absence or disability of the chief district judge.
- 39 (11) Designating certain magistrates who may appoint counsel pursuant to Article  
40 36 of this Chapter. This authority may only be designated to magistrates who  
41 are duly licensed attorneys and cannot give any magistrate (i) authority to  
42 appoint counsel for first degree murder offenses or (ii) authority to accept a  
43 waiver of counsel."

44 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.