

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 349
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/28/16
House Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 6/30/16

Short Title: Amd Various Laws/Study Golf Course Tax Policy.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 23, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CLARIFY CERTAIN LAWS RELATING TO THE FILING OF DOCUMENTS BY THE CLERK OF COURT AND TO DIRECT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PILOT MAGISTRATE/CLERK STAFFING PROJECT; TO PROVIDE FOR MEDIATED SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES IN DISTRICT COURT CIVIL ACTIONS; TO CREATE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RECORDS AND OPEN MEETINGS; TO ALLOW THE BOARD OF PHARMACY TO OBTAIN CRIMINAL RECORD REPORTS FROM APPROVED REPORTING SERVICES; TO PROHIBIT HUNTING FROM THE RIGHT-OF-WAYS OF PUBLIC ROADS IN BUNCOMBE COUNTY; TO CREATE A DEFINITION FOR PROVISIONAL PROVIDERS IN CHILD CARE; TO MOVE MONTGOMERY COUNTY FROM PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT 19A TO PROSECUTORIAL DISTRICT 20B; AND TO DIRECT THE REVENUE LAWS STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY GOLF COURSE TAX POLICY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5, reads as rewritten:

"Rule 5. Service and filing of pleadings and other papers.

...

- (e) (1) Filing with the court defined. – The filing of pleadings and other papers with the court pursuant to the rules promulgated under G.S. 7A-109 or subdivision (2) of this subsection as required by these rules shall be made by filing them with the clerk of the court, except that the judge may permit the papers to be filed with him, in which event he shall note thereon the filing date and forthwith transmit them to the office of the clerk. The failure to affix a date stamp or file stamp on any pleading or other papers filed in the courts shall not affect the sufficiency, validity, or enforceability of the document.
- (2) Filing by electronic means. – If, pursuant to ~~G.S. 7A-34~~ G.S. 7A-34, G.S. 7A-49.5, and G.S. 7A-343, the Supreme Court and the Administrative Officer of the Courts establish uniform rules, regulations, costs, procedures and specifications for the filing of pleadings or other court papers by electronic means, filing may be made by the electronic means when, in the manner, and to the extent provided therein."

SECTION 1.(b) G.S. 1A-1, Rule 58, reads as rewritten:

"Rule 58. Entry of judgment.



1 Subject to the provisions of Rule 54(b), a judgment is entered when it is reduced to writing,
2 signed by the judge, and filed with the clerk of ~~court.~~ court in accordance with Rule 5. The party
3 designated by the judge or, if the judge does not otherwise designate, the party who prepares the
4 judgment, shall serve a copy of the judgment upon all other parties within three days after the
5 judgment is entered. Service and proof of service shall be in accordance with Rule 5. If service is
6 by mail, three days shall be added to the time periods prescribed by Rule 50(b), Rule 52(b), and
7 Rule 59. All time periods within which a party may further act pursuant to Rule 50(b), Rule 52(b),
8 or Rule 59 shall be tolled for the duration of any period of noncompliance with this service
9 requirement, provided however that no time period under Rule 50(b), Rule 52(b), or Rule 59 shall
10 be tolled longer than 90 days from the date the judgment is entered. Subject to the provisions of
11 Rule 7(b)(4), consent for the signing and entry of a judgment out of term, session, county, and
12 district shall be deemed to have been given unless an express objection to such action was made
13 on the record prior to the end of the term or session at which the matter was heard.

14 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any judgment entered by a magistrate in a
15 small claims action pursuant to Article 19 of Chapter 7A shall be entered in accordance with this
16 Rule except judgments announced and signed in open court at the conclusion of a trial are
17 considered to be served on the parties, and copies of any judgment not announced and signed in
18 open court at the conclusion of a trial shall be served by the magistrate on all parties in accordance
19 with this Rule, within three days after the judgment is entered. If service is by mail, three days
20 shall be added to the time periods prescribed by G.S. 7A-228. All time periods within which a
21 party may further act pursuant to G.S. 7A-228 shall be tolled for the duration of any period of
22 noncompliance of this service requirement, provided that no time period shall be tolled longer than
23 90 days from the date judgment is entered."

24 **SECTION 1.(c)** Pilot Magistrate/Clerk Staffing Project. – The Administrative Office
25 of the Courts shall establish and implement a pilot project that will allow the clerk of superior
26 court of a county, with the written consent of the chief district court judge for the district in which
27 the county is located, to hire one deputy clerk or assistant clerk, based on the assistant clerk
28 allocation formula established by the Administrative Office of the Courts, in lieu of one of the
29 magistrate positions allocated to that county, notwithstanding the minimum number of magistrates
30 prescribed for each county under G.S. 7A-133(c). The pilot project is authorized for counties with
31 three or four magistrate allocations. To provide accessibility to law enforcement personnel and
32 citizens, in counties participating in this pilot project, the clerk of superior court's office will
33 provide some of the services traditionally provided by the magistrates' office during some or all of
34 the regular courthouse hours. The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report to the Joint
35 Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety on the outcomes of the pilot project
36 by March 1, 2017, and shall include recommendations on continuation or expansion of the pilot.

37 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5(e)(1), as enacted by subsection (a) of this section,
38 is effective when this section becomes law and applies to all pleadings and papers filed with the
39 courts, including pleadings and papers filed prior to that date. G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5(e)(2), as enacted
40 by subsection (a) of this section, is effective when it becomes law and applies to all pleadings and
41 papers filed with the courts on or after that date. The remainder of this section is effective when it
42 becomes law.

43 **SECTION 2.(a)** The catch line of G.S. 7A-38.4A reads as rewritten:
44 "**§ 7A-38.4A. Settlement procedures in district court family financial actions.**"

45 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 7A-38.4A(c) reads as rewritten:

46 "(c) Any chief district court judge in a judicial district may order a mediated settlement
47 conference or may order another settlement procedure, as provided under subsection (g) of this
48 section, for any action pending in that district involving issues of equitable distribution, alimony,
49 child or post separation support, or claims arising out of contracts between the parties under
50 G.S. 52-10, G.S. 52-10.1, or Chapter 52B of the General Statutes. The chief district court judge
51 may adopt local rules that order settlement procedures in all of the foregoing actions and designate

1 other district court judges or administrative personnel to issue orders implementing those
2 settlement procedures. However, local rules adopted by a chief district court judge shall not be
3 inconsistent with any rules adopted by the Supreme Court."

4 **SECTION 2.(c)** Article 5 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes is amended by adding
5 a new section to read:

6 **"§ 7A-38.4B. Settlement procedures in district court general civil actions.**

7 (a) The General Assembly finds that a system of settlement events should be established to
8 facilitate the settlement of district court civil actions, other than those involving family issues
9 covered by the provisions of G.S. 7A-38.4A, in order to make that litigation more economical,
10 efficient, and satisfactory to the parties, their representatives, and the State. District courts should
11 be able to require parties to those actions and their representatives to attend a pretrial mediated
12 settlement conference or other settlement procedure conducted under this section and rules
13 adopted by the Supreme Court to implement this section.

14 (b) The definitions in G.S. 7A-38.1(b)(2) and (b)(3) apply in this section.

15 (c) The chief district court judge, or that person's designee, in a judicial district may order
16 a mediated settlement conference or may order another settlement procedure, as provided under
17 subsection (g) of this section, for any district court civil action, other than those involving family
18 issues covered by the provisions of G.S. 7A-38.4A and issues exempted by the rules of the
19 Supreme Court implementing this section. The chief district court judge may adopt local rules that
20 order settlement procedures in all of the foregoing actions and designate other district court judges
21 or administrative personnel to issue orders implementing those settlement procedures. However,
22 local rules adopted by a chief district court judge shall not be inconsistent with any rules adopted
23 by the Supreme Court.

24 (d) The parties to a district court action where a mediated settlement conference or other
25 settlement procedure is ordered, their attorneys, and other persons or entities with authority, by
26 law or contract, to settle a party's claim, shall attend the mediated settlement conference or other
27 settlement procedure, unless the rules ordering the settlement procedure provide otherwise. No
28 party or other participant in a mediated settlement conference or other settlement procedure is
29 required to make a settlement offer or demand that the party or participant deems contrary to that
30 party's or participant's best interests. Parties who have been victims of domestic violence may be
31 excused from physically attending or participating in a mediated settlement conference or other
32 settlement procedure.

33 (e) Any person required to attend a mediated settlement conference or other settlement
34 procedure under this section who, without good cause, fails to attend or fails to pay any or all of
35 the mediator's or other neutral's fee in compliance with this section is subject to the contempt
36 powers of the court and monetary sanctions imposed by a district court judge. A party seeking
37 sanctions against another party or person shall do so in a written motion stating the grounds for the
38 motion and the relief sought. The motion shall be served upon all parties and upon any person
39 against whom sanctions are being sought. The court may initiate sanction proceedings upon its
40 own motion by the entry of a show cause order. If the court imposes sanctions, it shall do so, after
41 notice and hearing, in a written order making findings of fact and conclusions of law. An order
42 imposing sanctions is reviewable upon appeal, and the entire record shall be reviewed to
43 determine whether the order is supported by substantial evidence.

44 (f) The parties to a district court action in which a mediated settlement conference is to be
45 held under this section shall have the right to designate a mediator. Upon failure of the parties to
46 designate within the time established by the rules adopted by the Supreme Court, a mediator shall
47 be appointed by a district court judge.

48 (g) A chief district court judge, or that judge's designee, at the request of a party and with
49 the consent of all parties, may order the parties to attend and participate in any other settlement
50 procedure authorized by rules adopted by the Supreme Court or adopted by local district court
51 rules, in lieu of attending a mediated settlement conference. Neutrals acting under this section

1 shall be selected and compensated in accordance with rules adopted by the Supreme Court.
2 Nothing herein shall prohibit the parties from participating in other dispute resolution procedures,
3 including arbitration, to the extent authorized under State or federal law. Nothing herein shall
4 prohibit the parties from participating in mediation at a community mediation center operating
5 under G.S. 7A-38.5.

6 (h) Mediators and other neutrals acting under this section shall have judicial immunity in
7 the same manner and to the same extent as a judge of the General Court of Justice, except that
8 mediators and other neutrals may be disciplined in accordance with enforcement procedures
9 adopted by the Supreme Court under G.S. 7A-38.2.

10 (i) Costs of mediated settlement conferences and other settlement procedures shall be
11 borne by the parties. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or agreed to by the parties, the
12 mediator's fees shall be paid in equal shares by the parties. The rules adopted by the Supreme
13 Court shall set out a method whereby a party found by the court to be unable to pay the costs of
14 settlement procedures is afforded an opportunity to participate without cost to that party and
15 without expenditure of State funds.

16 (j) Evidence of statements made and conduct occurring in a mediated settlement
17 conference or other settlement proceeding conducted under this section, whether attributable to a
18 party, the mediator, other neutral, or a neutral observer present at the settlement proceeding, shall
19 not be subject to discovery and shall be inadmissible in any proceeding in the action or other civil
20 actions on the same claim, except in any of the following:

21 (1) Proceedings for sanctions under this section.

22 (2) Proceedings to enforce or rescind a settlement of the action.

23 (3) Disciplinary proceedings before the State Bar or any agency established to
24 enforce standards of conduct for mediators or other neutrals.

25 (4) Proceedings to enforce laws concerning juvenile or elder abuse.

26 As used in this subsection, the term "neutral observer" includes persons seeking mediator
27 certification, persons studying dispute resolution processes, and persons acting as interpreters.

28 No settlement agreement to resolve any or all issues reached at the proceeding conducted
29 under this section or during its recesses shall be enforceable unless it has been reduced to writing
30 and signed by the parties. No evidence otherwise discoverable shall be inadmissible merely
31 because it is presented or discussed in a settlement proceeding.

32 No mediator, other neutral, or neutral observer present at a settlement proceeding under this
33 section shall be compelled to testify or produce evidence concerning statements made and conduct
34 occurring in anticipation of, during, or as a follow-up to a mediated settlement conference or other
35 settlement proceeding pursuant to this section in any civil proceeding for any purpose, including
36 proceedings to enforce or rescind a settlement of the action, except to attest to the signing of any
37 agreements, and except proceedings for sanctions under this section, disciplinary hearings before
38 the State Bar or any agency established to enforce standards of conduct for mediators or other
39 neutrals, and proceedings to enforce laws concerning juvenile or elder abuse.

40 (k) The Supreme Court may adopt standards for the certification and conduct of mediators
41 and other neutrals who participate in settlement procedures conducted under this section. The
42 standards may also regulate mediator training programs. The Supreme Court may adopt
43 procedures for the enforcement of those standards. The administration of mediator certification,
44 regulation of mediator conduct, and decertification shall be conducted through the Dispute
45 Resolution Commission.

46 (l) An administrative fee not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) may be charged by
47 the Administrative Office of the Courts to applicants for certification and annual renewal of
48 certification for mediators and mediator training programs operating under this section. The fees
49 collected may be used by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts to establish and
50 maintain the operations of the Commission and its staff. The administrative fee shall be set by the

1 Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts in consultation with the Dispute Resolution
2 Commission.

3 (m) The Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the Dispute Resolution
4 Commission, may require the chief district court judge of any district to report statistical data
5 about settlement procedures conducted under this section for administrative purposes.

6 (n) Nothing in this section or in rules adopted by the Supreme Court implementing this
7 section shall restrict a party's right to a trial by jury.

8 (o) The Supreme Court may adopt rules to implement this section."

9 **SECTION 2.(d)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2016, and applies to
10 actions filed on or after that date.

11 **SECTION 3.(a)** Creation. – There is created the Joint Legislative Study Committee
12 on Public Records and Open Meetings. The Committee shall consist of 10 members to be
13 appointed as follows:

14 (1) Five members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
15 House of Representatives.

16 (2) Five members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
17 Senate.

18 **SECTION 3.(b)** Study. – The Joint Legislative Study Committee on Public Records
19 and Open Meetings shall study ways to improve transparency of State and local government in
20 North Carolina. In the conduct of its study, the Committee shall examine existing State laws
21 regarding public access to government records and meetings and legislation enacted in other states
22 that allow greater public access than currently exists in North Carolina. Specifically, the
23 Committee shall study:

24 (1) Strategies for the executive branch of North Carolina State government to
25 streamline the processes by which the public may access government records
26 and meetings.

27 (2) Strategies for local government entities in North Carolina to streamline the
28 processes by which the public may access government records and meetings.

29 (3) The development of legislative alternatives to existing provisions of the North
30 Carolina Public Records Act and Open Meetings Law that restrict or entirely
31 prohibit public access to government records of meetings.

32 **SECTION 3.(c)** Cochairs; Vacancies. – The Speaker of the House of Representatives
33 shall designate one representative to serve as cochair, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate
34 shall designate one senator to serve as cochair. Vacancies on the Committee shall be filled by the
35 same appointing authority making the initial appointment.

36 **SECTION 3.(d)** Powers. – The Committee, while in the discharge of its official
37 duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through
38 G.S. 120-19.4. The Committee may meet at any time upon the joint call of the cochairs. The
39 Committee may meet in the Legislative Building or in the Legislative Office Building.

40 **SECTION 3.(e)** Staffing. – The Legislative Services Commission, through the
41 Legislative Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist the Committee in its work.
42 The Directors of Legislative Assistants of the Senate and of the House of Representatives shall
43 assign clerical staff to the Committee, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be
44 borne by the Committee. Members of the Committee shall receive subsistence and travel expenses
45 at the rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

46 **SECTION 3.(f)** Report. – The Committee shall submit a final report, including
47 findings and legislative recommendations, to the 2017 General Assembly. The Committee shall
48 terminate upon filing its final report.

49 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 90-85.15 reads as rewritten:

50 **"§ 90-85.15. Application and examination for licensure as a pharmacist; prerequisites.**

1 (a) Any person who desires to be licensed as a pharmacist shall file an application with the
2 Executive Director on the form furnished by the Board, verified under oath, setting forth the
3 applicant's name, age, the place at which and the time that ~~he~~the applicant has spent in the study
4 of pharmacy, and ~~his~~the applicant's experience in compounding and dispensing prescriptions
5 under the supervision of a pharmacist. The applicant shall also appear at a time and place
6 designated by the Board and submit to an examination as to ~~his~~the applicant's qualifications for
7 being licensed. The applicant must demonstrate to the Board ~~his~~the applicant's physical and
8 mental competency to practice pharmacy.

9 (b) On or after July 1, 1982, all applicants shall have received an undergraduate degree
10 from a school of pharmacy approved by the Board. Applicants shall be required to have had up to
11 one year of experience, approved by the Board, under the supervision of a pharmacist and shall
12 pass the required examination offered by the Board. Upon completing these requirements and
13 upon paying the required fee, the applicant shall be licensed.

14 (c) ~~The Department of Public Safety may provide a criminal record check to the Board for
15 a person who has applied for a license through the Board. The Board shall provide to the
16 Department of Public Safety, along with the request, the fingerprints of the applicant, any
17 additional information required by the Department of Public Safety, and a form signed by the
18 applicant consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of the fingerprints and other
19 identifying information required by the State or national repositories. The applicant's fingerprints
20 shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation for a search of the State's criminal history
21 record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set of the fingerprints to the
22 Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history check. The Board shall keep all
23 information pursuant to this subsection privileged, in accordance with applicable State law and
24 federal guidelines, and the information shall be confidential and shall not be a public record under
25 Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.~~

26 ~~The Department of Public Safety may charge each applicant a fee for conducting the checks of
27 eriminal history records authorized by this subsection. The Board may require an applicant to
28 provide the Board with a criminal record report. All applicants shall obtain criminal record reports
29 from one or more reporting services designated by the Board to provide criminal record reports.
30 Applicants are required to pay the designated reporting service for the cost of these reports."~~

31 **SECTION 5.(a)** It is unlawful to hunt with a firearm or deadly weapon, or to attempt
32 to hunt with a firearm or deadly weapon, any wild animal or wild bird on, from, or across the
33 right-of-way of any public road or highway.

34 **SECTION 5.(b)** Violation of subsection (a) of this section is a Class 3 misdemeanor.

35 **SECTION 5.(c)** This section is enforceable by law enforcement officers of the
36 Wildlife Resources Commission, by sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, and by other peace officers with
37 general subject matter jurisdiction.

38 **SECTION 5.(d)** This section applies only to Buncombe County.

39 **SECTION 5.(e)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2016, and applies to acts
40 committed on or after that date.

41 **SECTION 6.(a)** G.S. 110-90.2(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
42 "**§ 110-90.2. Mandatory child care providers' criminal history checks.**

43 (a) For purposes of this section:

44 ...

45 (3a) "Provisional provider" means a child care provider whose notification of
46 qualification under subsection (b) of this section is pending.

47"

48 **SECTION 6.(b)** G.S. 110-90.2 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

49 "(b2) The following requirements apply to provisional providers:

(1) A provisional provider may be hired, begin orientation and training, and be counted in staff/child ratio so long as the provisional provider meets all of the following conditions:

- a. The provider has submitted a completed criminal history record check application prior to employment.
- b. The provider is supervised at all times by a qualified child care provider and is never left alone with children.
- c. The provider is clearly identified as a provisional provider by wearing in plain view a badge identifying the person as a provisional provider.

(2) An explanation of the status of provisional provider shall be included in a policy statement approved by the Division. The statement shall be provided to parents and shall also be posted in a conspicuous place in the child care facility.

(3) If the child care provider has not received notification of the Department's determination within 45 calendar days from the date the criminal history check was submitted, the child care provider shall not enter or remain on the premises of the child care facility until such notification is received."

SECTION 6.(c) This section becomes effective August 1, 2016.

SECTION 7.(a) G.S. 7A-60 reads as rewritten:

"§ 7A-60. District attorneys and prosecutorial districts.

(a) The State shall be divided into prosecutorial districts, as shown in subsection (a1) of this section. There shall be a district attorney for each prosecutorial district, as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section who shall be a resident of the prosecutorial district for which elected. A vacancy in the office of district attorney shall be filled as provided in Article IV, Sec. 19 of the Constitution.

(a1) The counties of the State are organized into prosecutorial districts, and each district has the counties and the number of full-time assistant district attorneys set forth in the following table:

Prosecutorial District	Counties	No. of Full-Time Asst. District Attorneys
1	Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans	11
2	Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, Washington	8
3A	Pitt	11
3B	Carteret, Craven, Pamlico	12
4	Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Sampson	18
5	New Hanover, Pender	18
6	Bertie, Halifax, Hertford, Northampton	10
7	Edgecombe, Nash, Wilson	18
8	Greene, Lenoir, Wayne	14
9	Franklin, Granville, Vance, Warren	10
9A	Person, Caswell	6
10	Wake	41
11A	Harnett, Lee	9
11B	Johnston	10
12	Cumberland	23

1	13	Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus	13
2	14	Durham	18
3	15A	Alamance	11
4	15B	Orange, Chatham	10
5	16A	Scotland, Hoke	7
6	16B	Robeson	12
7	16C	Anson, Richmond	6
8	17A	Rockingham	7
9	17B	Stokes, Surry	8
10	18	Guilford	32
11	19A	Cabarrus	9
12	19B	Montgomery , Randolph	9
13	19C	Rowan	8
14	19D	Moore	5
15	20A		5
16		Stanly <u>Stanly, Montgomery</u>	
17	20B	Union	10
18	21	Forsyth	25
19	22A	Alexander, Iredell	11
20	22B	Davidson, Davie	11
21	23	Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes,	8
22		Yadkin	
23	24	Avery, Madison, Mitchell,	7
24		Watauga, Yancey	
25	25	Burke, Caldwell, Catawba	18
26	26	Mecklenburg	58
27	27A	Gaston	14
28	27B	Cleveland,	11
29		Lincoln	
30	28	Buncombe	14
31	29A	McDowell, Rutherford	7
32	29B	Henderson, Polk, Transylvania	8
33	30	Cherokee, Clay, Graham,	10
34		Haywood, Jackson, Macon,	
35		Swain.	
36"		

SECTION 7.(b) The office and term of the district attorney for Prosecutorial District 19B, as established by G.S. 7A-60(a1), as amended by subsection (a) of this section, shall be filled by the district attorney serving Prosecutorial District 19B at the time this section becomes law, who resides in Randolph County. The term of that district attorney expires December 31, 2016, and a successor shall be elected in the 2016 general election for a four-year term commencing January 1, 2017.

SECTION 7.(c) The office and term of the district attorney for Prosecutorial District 20A, as established by G.S. 7A-60(a1) subsection (a) of this section, shall be filled by the district attorney serving Prosecutorial District 20A at the time this section becomes law, who resides in Stanly County. The term of that district attorney expires December 31, 2018, and a successor shall be elected in the 2018 general election for a four-year term commencing January 1, 2019.

SECTION 7.(d) This section becomes effective September 1, 2016.

SECTION 8. The Revenue Laws Study Committee is directed to study issues related to the property taxation of golf courses. The study may include a review of the methods used to determine the fair market value and whether there are inconsistencies across counties with regard

1 to valuation methodologies in order to identify whether any legislative changes need to be made to
2 ensure a consistent, uniform, and simple methodology for assessing these properties. The
3 Committee may report its findings, together with any recommended legislation, to the 2017
4 General Assembly upon its convening.

5 **SECTION 9.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.