



## SENATE BILL 215: Abolish Brunswick County Coroner.

2016-2017 General Assembly

**Committee:** House Local Government  
**Introduced by:** Sen. Rabon  
**Analysis of:** First Edition

**Date:** June 21, 2016  
**Prepared by:** Augustus Willis  
Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *House Bill 215 provides that the Office of Coroner in Brunswick County shall be abolished at the end of the current term or upon a vacancy of that office, whichever occurs first.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Chapter 152 of the General Statutes sets out the laws relating to coroners in North Carolina, including election and vacancies in office, oaths, bonds, powers and duties.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 215 provides that the Office of Coroner in Brunswick County shall be abolished at the earlier of a vacancy in that office or end of the current term. The bill further provides that Chapter 152 of the General Statutes does not apply to Brunswick County.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act becomes effective on the earlier of a vacancy in the office of the coroner in Brunswick County or the expiration of the current term of office in 2016.

**BACKGROUND:** The state-wide medical examiner system was put into place through Session Law 1965-639. Since the late 1960s, counties have abolished the Office of the Coroner. Most recently, Session Law 2010-48 abolished the Office of the Coroner in Rutherford County. There remain eight counties with an elected coroner: Avery, Bladen, Brunswick, Caswell, Cleveland, Columbus, Hoke, and Yadkin.

*Amy Jo Johnson, Staff Attorney in the Bill Drafting Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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