



SENATE BILL 519: Amend Child Custody Laws

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:

Introduced by:

Analysis of: S.L. 2015-278

Date:

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Staff Attorney

SUMMARY: *S.L. 2015-278 creates in statute a legislative policy concerning child custody determinations. The act encourages cooperation by parents and the courts in crafting agreements and practices that encourage both parents to participate in parenting responsibilities and to focus on the best interests of the child. The act also requires judges to make written findings of fact in custody orders, reflecting the consideration of specified factors.*

This act became effective on October 20, 2015.

BILL ANALYSIS: Session Law 2015-278 enacts a new G.S. 50-13.01 declaring the State's legislative policy relating to child custody, which encourages the following when in the child's best interests:

- Cooperative parenting agreements to reduce child custody litigation.
- Responsible parenting.
- Participation by both parents in the child's life.
- Equitable sharing by both parents of the rights and responsibilities of raising their child.
- The maintenance by both parents of a healthy relationship with their child.

The act also requires the court in a child custody proceeding to consider certain factors relating to the safety and best interests of the child, and to make specific findings of fact relating to those factors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective when the Governor signed it into law on October 20, 2015.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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