



HOUSE BILL 290: Abolish Columbus County Coroner.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Elections and Ethics Law	Date:	April 26, 2017
Introduced by:	Rep. Brenden Jones	Prepared by:	Erika Churchill
Analysis of:	First Edition		Jessica Sammons
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OVERVIEW: *House Bill 290 would abolish the office of coroner in Columbus County.*

[As introduced, this bill was identical to S185, as introduced by Sen. Britt, which is currently in House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.]

CURRENT LAW: Chapter 152 of the General Statutes sets out the duties of elected county coroners in the State.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 290 would abolish the office of coroner in Columbus County. Chapter 152 of the General Statutes would not be applicable to Columbus County.

EFFECTIVE DATE: House Bill 290 would be effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND:

- From 1965-67, several local laws were enacted providing for the appointment of medical doctors as county medical examiners, and abolishing the office of coroner in several counties.
- In 1967, the General Assembly enacted S.L. 1967-1154, which established the State Office of Chief Medical Examiner, to provide for a Statewide system for postmortem examinations of deaths related to crimes, suicide, prison confinement, or other specified circumstances.
- Since the 1960s, the office of elected county coroner has been abolished in most counties.
- There are currently six counties in which the office of county coroner has not been abolished: Avery, Bladen, Cleveland, Columbus, Hoke, and Yadkin.

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