



SENATE BILL 185: Abolish Columbus County Coroner.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate State and Local Government. If	Date:	April 11, 2017
	favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of		
	the Senate		
Introduced by:	Sen. Britt	Prepared by:	Brad Krehely
Analysis of:	First Edition		Jessica Sammons
			Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 185 would abolish the office of coroner in Columbus County.

[As introduced, this bill was identical to H290, as introduced by Rep. Brenden Jones, which is currently in House Elections and Ethics Law.]

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

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 185 would abolish the office of the coroner in Columbus County. Chapter 152 of the General Statutes would not apply to Columbus County.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Senate Bill 185 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.

*Giles Perry, Staff Attorney in the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.

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