



SENATE BILL 257: Appropriations Act of 2017, Sec. 18B.4: Business Court Reports

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	October 3, 2017
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Bill Patterson Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 18B.4 of S.L. 2017-57		

OVERVIEW: Section 18B.4 of S.L. 2017-57 requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to submit a semiannual report on the activities of each North Carolina business court site to the Chief Justice, to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee, and to all other members of the General Assembly.

This section became effective on June 28, 2017.

CURRENT LAW: Prior to enactment of Section 18B.4, the AOC was required to submit an annual report on the activities of each business court site to the Chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee, including:

- The number of new, closed, and pending cases.
- The average age of pending cases.
- Annual expenditures for the previous fiscal year.

Separately, the AOC Director was required to submit a semiannual report to the Chief Justice and to each member of the General Assembly on the activities of each North Carolina business court site, including:

- The total number of civil cases pending in each business court site over three years after being designated as a mandatory complex business case.
- The number of motions pending over six months after being filed.
- The number of civil cases in which bench trials have been concluded for over six months without entry of judgment, including any accompanying explanation provided by the business court.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 18B.4 consolidates the separate reporting requirements by requiring that the AOC Director submit a semiannual report to the Chief Justice and to the chairs of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and to all other members of the General Assembly, including:

- The number of new, closed, and pending cases for the previous three years.
- The average age of pending cases.
- The number of motions pending over six months after being filed.
- The number of cases in which bench trials have been concluded for over six months without entry of judgment, including any accompanying explanation provided by the business court.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective on June 28, 2017.

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