



**SENATE BILL 257:
Appropriations Act of 2017, Sec. 18B.10:
Eliminate Access to Civil Justice Funds**

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	October 4, 2017
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Bill Patterson Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 18B.10 of S.L. 2017-57		

OVERVIEW: Section 18B.10 of S.L. 2017-57 repealed the Access to Civil Justice Act, which provided funding for legal representation of indigent persons in certain kinds of civil matters.

This section became effective on April 26, 2017.

CURRENT LAW: The Access to Civil Justice Act (ACJA), Article 39A of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes, implemented the General Assembly's declared purpose of providing access to legal representation for indigent persons in certain kinds of civil matters through the funding of established legal services programs in this State.

The ACJA defined the activities and types of cases for which funds appropriated for this purpose could be used, and directed the State Bar to allocate the funds to Legal Aid of North Carolina, Legal Services of Southern Piedmont, and Pisgah Legal Services for this purpose.

A portion of each filing fee collected for support of the General Court of Justice in criminal cases,¹ civil cases,² special proceedings,³ and estate proceedings⁴ was remitted to the State Bar to fund the services provided pursuant to the ACJA.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 18B.10 repealed the ACJA and two of its associated appropriations provisions. (The remaining ACJA funding provisions were repealed in [Section 5.4A](#) of S.L. 2017-197 (Budget Technical Corrections)).

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 18B.10 became effective on April 26, 2017.

¹ G.S. 7A-304(a)(4).

² G.S. 7A-305(a)(2), (a5)(3).

³ G.S. 7A-306(a)(2)

⁴ G.S. 7A-307(a)(2).

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