



# SENATE BILL 217: Change Superior Ct & District Ct Numbers.

This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	July 10, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Britt, Daniel	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Susan Sitze* Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to Second Edition S217-CSSA-40		

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for Senate Bill 217 would numerically realign superior court and district court districts with prosecutorial districts.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Each Superior Court district, each District Court district, and each Prosecutorial district are assigned a numerical reference in the statutes. G.S. 7A-41, G.S. 7A-133, and G.S. 7A-60. Historically, the three numerical references have been associated with each other, when the counties assigned to those districts also aligned with each other.

In the 2017-2018 biennium, the General Assembly made several changes to the structure of North Carolina's Superior Court, District Court, and Prosecutorial districts with respect to geography and district reference number. Section 18B.9 of S.L. 2017-57, S.L. 2018-5, S.L. 2018-14, and S.L. 2018-121.

### BILL ANALYSIS:

**Section 1** of the PCS for Senate Bill 217 would renumber some superior court and district court districts to align with the same number used for the prosecutorial district in that district. The changes would become effective October 1, 2019. The resulting numerical designations would be as indicated in this chart:

Prosecutorial District	Superior Court District	District Court District	Counties
1	1	1	Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Pasquotank, Perquimans
2	2	2	Beaufort, Hyde, Martin, Tyrrell, Washington
3	3	3	Pitt
4	4	4	Carteret, Craven, Pamlico
5	5	5	Duplin, Jones, Onslow, Sampson
6	6A	6	Pender, part of New Hanover
	6B		Part of New Hanover
	6C		Part of New Hanover
7	7A	7	Halifax
	7B		Bertie, Hertford, Northampton

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8	8A	8	Nash
	8B		Part of Wilson, part of Edgecombe
	8C		Part of Wilson, part of Edgecombe
9	9A	9	Greene, Lenoir
	9B		Wayne
10	10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 10F	10A, 10B, 10C, 10D, 10E, 10F	Wake
11	11	11A	Franklin, Granville, Person, part of Vance
		11B	Warren, part of Vance
12	12	12	Harnett, Lee
13	13		Johnston
14	14A, 14B, 14C	14	Cumberland
15	15A	15	Bladen, Columbus
	15B		Brunswick
16	16A, 16B	16	Durham
17	17	17	Alamance
18	18	18	Orange, Chatham
19 (eff. 1/1/23)	19	36	Catawba ( <i>District Court combined with Burke &amp; Caldwell</i> )
20	20	20	Robeson
21	21	21	Anson, Richmond, Scotland
22	22	22	Caswell, Rockingham
23	23	23	Stokes, Surry
24	24A, 24B, 24C, 24D, 24E	24	Guilford
25	25	25	Cabarrus
26	26A, 26B, 26C, 26D, 26E, 26F, 26G, 26H	26A, 26B, 26C, 26D, 26E, 26F, 26G, 26H	Mecklenburg
27	27	27	Rowan
28	28	28	Montgomery, Stanly
29 (eff. 1/1/21)	29	29	Hoke, Moore
30	30	30A, 30B, 30C	Union
31	31A, 31B, 31C, 31D	31	Forsyth
32	32	32	Alexander, Iredell
33	33	33	Davidson, Davie
34	34	34	Alleghany, Ashe, Wilkes, Yadkin
35	35	35	Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancey

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36	36	36	Burke, Caldwell ( <i>includes Catawba for Dist. Ct</i> )
37	37	37	Randolph
38	38	38	Gaston
39	39	39	Cleveland, Lincoln
40	40	40	Buncombe
41	41	41	McDowell, Rutherford
42	42	42	Henderson, Polk, Transylvania
43	43A	43	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon, Swain
	43B		Haywood, Jackson

**NOTE:** Districts with a letter designation are established statutorily as separate districts and serve as separate districts for election of judges, however those districts operate administratively as one superior court or district court district with other districts of the same number.

**Section 2** of the PCS would make a conforming change to one prosecutorial district that becomes effective January 1, 2023.

**Section 3** of the PCS would authorize the Revisor of Statutes to reorder the districts to be in alphabetical and numerical order.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as stated above, the bill would be effective when it becomes law.

*\*Jessica Sammons, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*