



2023-2024 General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 259: 2023 Appropriations Act, Sec. 27.11: North Carolina State Bar Grievance Review Committee, Disciplinary Hearing Commission, and Bar Fees

Committee:		Date:	December 18, 2023
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Howard Marsilio
Analysis of:	Sec. 27.11 of S.L. 2023-134		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Section 27.11 of S.L. 2023-134 establishes the State Bar Review Committee, amends fee statutes that apply to members of the North Carolina State Bar and district bars, and modifies the membership of the North Carolina State Bar disciplinary hearing commission.

The subsections of this section that relate to fee modifications become effective July 1, 2024. The remainder of this section became effective October 3, 2023.

BILL ANALYSIS:

North Carolina State Bar Grievance Review Committee Established. -

The subsections of Section 27.11 of S.L. 2023-134 that relate to the State Bar Review Committee, establish the Committee to review and examine the North Carolina State Bar grievance review process with the purpose of improving the effectiveness, fairness, and process of disciplinary and grievance review procedures. The Committee must address concerns that relate to: the grievance process; right to due process; review of grievances and complaints; grievance review panel composition; role of the North Carolina State Bar Office of Counsel; and other relevant areas the Committee deems concerning or needing improvement. The State Bar Review Committee must submit a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations by April 1, 2024. The Committee will expire upon submitting its report.

North Carolina State Bar and District Bar Fee Amendments. -

The subsections of this section that relate to fees amend statutes to include an annual State bar membership fee cap increase from \$300.00 to \$325.00, a State Bar fee exemption for members actively serving in the Armed Forces, a statutorily set district bar membership fee of \$90.00, and various statutory clarifications that relate to timing and notice requirements along these lines.

North Carolina State Bar Disciplinary Hearing Commission. -

The subsections of this section that relate to the North Carolina State Bar Disciplinary Hearing Commission amend statutes that relate to the Commission to include members appointed by the General Assembly and by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The subsections of this section that relate to fees become effective July 1, 2024. The remainder of this section became effective October 3, 2023.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578