



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

# SENATE BILL 445: Recording of Court-Filed Documents.

2023-2024 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 26, 2024
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sen. Daniel	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Michael Johnston* Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		

**OVERVIEW:** Senate Bill 445 would exempt any certified copy of a court-filed document from formatting requirements applicable to paper documents presented to a register of deeds for registration.

**CURRENT LAW:** Instruments presented to a register of deeds for registration on paper, other than financing statements and amendments conforming to the requirements of Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code, must meet the following formatting requirements:

- Be eight and one-half inches by eleven inches or eight and one-half inches by fourteen inches.
- Have a blank margin of three inches at the top of the first page and blank margins of at least one-half inches on the remaining sides of the first page and on all sides of subsequent pages.
- Be typed or printed in black on white paper in a legible font. A font size no smaller than nine points shall be considered legible. Blanks in an instrument may be completed in pen and corrections to an instrument may be made in pen.
- Have text typed or printed on one side of a page only.
- State the type of instrument at the top of the first page.

Instruments not meeting these requirements can be registered only after paying a \$25 fee for nonstandard documents in addition to all other applicable recording fees. If the instrument's only noncompliance is having a font size smaller than nine points, it can be registered without payment of the fee if, in the discretion of the register of deeds, the instrument is legible.<sup>1</sup>

Paper documents filed with the court must be unfolded and firmly bound with no manuscript cover, and except for wills and exhibits, must be letter size (8 1/2" x 11").<sup>2</sup>

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 445 would exempt any certified copy of a court-filed document from the formatting requirements applicable to paper documents presented for registration to a register of deeds.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would become effective when it becomes law and apply to instruments presented for registration on or after that date.

\* Bill Patterson, Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.

<sup>1</sup> G.S. 161-14(b).

<sup>2</sup> Rule 5(c) and Rule 5.1(c), General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts.

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



Legislative Analysis  
Division  
919-733-2578