



2023-2024 General Assembly

# SENATE BILL 91: Amend Rule 4/Acceptance of Service - Part I, New Acknowledgement of Receipt of Service of Process

**Committee:**  
**Introduced by:**  
**Analysis of:** S.L. 2023-97

**Date:** December 1, 2023  
**Prepared by:** Erika Churchill  
Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** *Part I of S.L. 2023-97 authorizes an optional means by which service of civil summons may be completed.*

*This part became effective December 1, 2023, and applies to actions commenced on or after that date.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Rule 4(j5) of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure permits a party to accept service of process by signing a notation of acceptance of service on an original or copy of the summons accompanying a complaint. Accepting service in this manner has the same effect as if the process had been served by personal delivery of the summons and complaint to the person signing the acceptance.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** **Part I** of S.L. 2023-97 amended Rule 4(j5) of the Rules of Civil Procedure to permit a party also to accept service of process by completing an acceptance of service form provided by the Administrative Office of the Courts. The completion of the acceptance of service form has the same effect as personal delivery of the summons and complaint to the individual signing the form.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This part became effective December 1, 2023, and applies to actions commenced on or after that date.

Jeffrey Hudson  
Director



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