

HOUSE BILL 648: Disposition Placement/Findings of Fact.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee: House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the Date: April 28, 2025

House

Introduced by:Rep. StevensPrepared by:Debbie GriffithsAnalysis of:Second EditionStaff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 648 would amend G.S. 7B-903 to do the following:

- Require written findings of fact supporting findings or determinations made by the judge pursuant to 7B-903.
- Clarify that the judge may consider and compare all placement options when the juvenile has been placed outside of the home with a nonrelative when determining whether placement with a relative would be contrary to the juvenile's best interest.
- Make technical changes.

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 7B-903 does not specifically require that the court make written findings of fact to support the required findings or determinations made by the court.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 648 would do the following:

- Require the court to make written findings of fact supporting the findings or determinations made pursuant to G.S. 7B-903.
- Clarify that the judge may consider and compare all placement options when the juvenile has been placed outside of the home with a nonrelative when determining whether placement with a relative would be contrary to the juvenile's best interest.
- Make technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective on October 1, 2025, and apply to actions filed on or after that date.

