



SENATE BILL 488: Clarify Disp. Place Analysis/IOLTA.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 24, 2025
Introduced by:	Sen. Sawrey	Prepared by:	Debbie Griffiths
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S488-CSCI-44		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Section 1 of the proposed committee substitute (PCS) to Senate Bill 488 would amend G.S. 7B-903 to require written findings of fact supporting findings and determinations made by the judge and 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. Section 2 of the PCS would limit the use of interest earned on funds held in North Carolina Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (NC IOLTA).*

CURRENT LAW and BILL ANALYSIS:

SECTION 1. 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.

Section 1 of the PCS to Senate Bill 388 would 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, and make technical changes.

SECTION 2. Section 2 of the PCS would prevent the NC IOLTA Board of Trustees from expending or encumbering funds for the purpose of awarding grants or for any purpose other than administrative costs between the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 1 of this act would become effective October 1, 2025, and would apply to petitions filed on or after that date. The remainder of this act would become effective when it becomes law.

*Hannah Kendrick, staff attorney with Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.

Kara McCraw
Director



* S 4 8 8 - S M C I - 1 0 5 C S C I - 4 4 - V - 1 *

Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578