



SENATE BILL 648: AOC Agency Requests.

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

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	April 16, 2025
Introduced by:	Sens. B. Newton, Britt, Daniel	Prepared by:	Michael Johnston
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 648 would do the following:

- Add High Point University School of Law to the recipient list of State appellate division reports.
- Modify provisions affecting judicially managed accountability and recovery courts.
- Prohibit use of modified Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) forms without proper notice.
- Repeal requirements of public notice of a name change at the courthouse before applying for a name change.
- Modify provisions related to guardianship for incompetent persons.
- Modify provisions related to the estate of a decedent.
- Clarify the jurisdiction of superior court judges assigned to a specific case.
- Modify provisions related to service of process for domestic violence protective order proceedings.
- Modify provisions related to juvenile custody.
- Authorize the clerk of court to send commitment orders to certain persons.
- Clarify that retirement is a reason for unavailability for judicial settlements.
- Modify provisions regarding suspension, removal, and reinstatement of clerks.
- Modify provisions regarding State Business Courts and Business Court Judges.
- Grant the AOC Director authority to create official emblems of the judicial branch.
- Clarify the AOC Director's authority to establish the number of magistrates within a county.
- Modify procedures for the disbursement of expenses of the Judicial Department.

CURRENT LAW & BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 would modify G.S. 7A-343.1 to add High Point University School of Law to the list of educational institutions that receive State appellate division reports from AOC.

Section 2 would (i) make a technical correction to G.S. 7A-801 and (ii) clarify that Article 62 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes applies to local judicially managed accountability and recovery courts regardless of funding source.

Section 2 would become effective August 1, 2025.

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

Senate Bill 648

Page 2

Section 3 would prohibit modification of AOC forms in a manner that maintains the appearance that the form was promulgated by AOC and would require that any attorney or party who modifies an AOC form clearly notate how the form was modified.

Section 3 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to modified forms used on or after that date.

Section 4 would repeal the requirement in G.S. 101-2 that an individual applying for a name change must give public notice of the name change application at the courthouse.

Section 4 would become effective December 1, 2025, and would apply to all applications for a name change pursuant to Chapter 101 of the General Statutes filed on or after that date.

Section 5 would modify guardianship provisions in Chapter 35A of the General Statutes, including which guardians would be required to provide a bond, the process for the clerk to approve a bond, which financial reports must be provided to the clerk, and termination of the guardianship.

Section 5 would become effective December 1, 2025.

Section 6 would do the following:

- Clarify terminology in G.S. 29-30 and Article 2A of Chapter 28A of the General Statutes.
- Extend the timeframe for implied renunciation of the role of executor pursuant to G.S. 28A-5-1.
- Clarify accounting procedures pursuant to G.S. 28A-21-3.
- Clarify the requirements for a petition for summary administration under Article 28 of Chapter 28A of the General Statutes.
- Clarify the process for transferring ownership of a decedent's vehicle pursuant to G.S. 20-77(b).
- Modify procedures for a living individual to file a will with the clerk pursuant to G.S. 31-11.

Section 6 would become effective December 1, 2025.

Section 7 would clarify the jurisdiction of superior court judges assigned to a specific case.

Section 8 would remove a cross-reference from G.S. 28C-10.

Section 9 would modify when a clerk or magistrate must effect service of process through a law enforcement agency under Chapter 50B of the General Statutes, which governs domestic violence protective orders.

Section 9 would become effective December 1, 2025, and would apply to service of process occurring on or after that date.

Section 10 would do the following:

- Add "indictment" and "information" to the charging documents referenced in G.S. 7B-1903.
- Update G.S. 7B-1904 in light of the removal process in G.S. 15A-960.
- Modify the process for release of an obligor from a juvenile's bond in the event of remand or removal to juvenile court.

Section 10 would become effective December 1, 2025, and would apply to proceedings occurring on or after that date.

Senate Bill 648

Page 3

Section 11 would modify G.S. 122C-271(b)(2) and G.S. 122C-287(1) to authorize the clerk of court to send a copy of the commitment order to the treating physician or center and other responsible persons.

Section 11 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to orders issued on or after that date.

Section 12 would clarify that proceedings for judicial settlement of the record under G.S. 1-283 would be governed by the rules of appellate procedure in the event that the judge is unavailable due to retirement.

Section 12 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to actions taken on or after that date.

Section 13 would modify the provisions regarding suspension, removal, and reinstatement of clerks under G.S. 7A-105.

Section 13 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to proceedings based upon clerk conduct occurring on or after that date.

Section 14 would clarify who may serve as a Business Court Judge and which cases can be designated as complex business cases.

Section 14 would become effective December 1, 2025, and would apply to judges designated and proceedings held on or after that date.

Section 15 would grant the AOC Director authority to create official emblems of the judicial branch.

Section 16 would clarify the AOC Director's authority to establish the number of magistrates within a county above the minimum number required for that county.

Section 17 would modify the procedures for the disbursement of expenses of the Judicial Department.

Section 18 would create a severability clause providing that if any section or provision of the act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, it would not affect the validity of the act as a whole or any other part of the act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this bill would become effective when it becomes law.