

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE DRH70258-MD-94B\* (3/12)

Short Title: Increase Statutory Homestead Exemption.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Blue.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE STATUTORY HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. G.S. 1C-1601(a) reads as rewritten:

5 "(a) Exempt property. – Each individual, resident of this State, who is a debtor is entitled  
6 to retain free of the enforcement of the claims of creditors:

- 7 (1) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed ~~eighteen thousand five~~  
8 ~~hundred dollars (\$18,500)~~three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) in  
9 value, in real property or personal property that the debtor or a dependent of  
10 the debtor uses as a ~~residence,~~residence or in a cooperative that owns  
11 property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a ~~residence, or~~  
12 ~~in a burial plot for the debtor or a dependent of the debtor; however, an~~  
13 ~~unmarried debtor who is 65 years of age or older is entitled to retain an~~  
14 ~~aggregate interest in the property not to exceed thirty seven thousand dollars~~  
15 ~~(\$37,000) in value so long as the property was previously owned by the~~  
16 ~~debtor as a tenant by the entirety or as a joint tenant with rights of~~  
17 ~~survivorship and the former co-owner of the property is deceased.~~residence.  
18 (2) The debtor's aggregate interest in any property, not to exceed five thousand  
19 dollars (\$5,000) in value of any unused exemption amount to which the  
20 debtor is entitled under subdivision (1) of this subsection.  
21 (3) The debtor's interest, not to exceed three thousand five hundred dollars  
22 (\$3,500) in value, in one motor vehicle.  
23 (4) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000)  
24 in value for the debtor plus one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each dependent  
25 of the debtor, not to exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000) total for  
26 dependents, in household furnishings, household goods, wearing apparel,  
27 appliances, books, animals, crops, or musical instruments, that are held  
28 primarily for the personal, family, or household use of the debtor or a  
29 dependent of the debtor.  
30 (5) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed two thousand dollars (\$2,000)  
31 in value, in any implements, professional books, or tools of the trade of the  
32 debtor or the trade of a dependent of the debtor.  
33 (6) Life insurance as provided in Article X, Section 5 of the Constitution of  
34 North Carolina.



- 1 (7) Professionally prescribed health aids for the debtor or a dependent of the  
2 debtor.
- 3 (8) Compensation for personal injury, including compensation from private  
4 disability policies or annuities, or compensation for the death of a person  
5 upon whom the debtor was dependent for support, but such compensation is  
6 not exempt from claims for funeral, legal, medical, dental, hospital, and  
7 health care charges related to the accident or injury giving rise to the  
8 compensation.
- 9 (9) Individual retirement plans as defined in the Internal Revenue Code and any  
10 plan treated in the same manner as an individual retirement plan under the  
11 Internal Revenue Code, including individual retirement accounts and Roth  
12 retirement accounts as described in section 408(a) and section 408A of the  
13 Internal Revenue Code, individual retirement annuities as described in  
14 section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, and accounts established as  
15 part of a trust described in section 408(c) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- 16 (10) Funds in a college savings plan qualified under section 529 of the Internal  
17 Revenue Code, not to exceed a cumulative limit of twenty-five thousand  
18 dollars (\$25,000), but excluding any funds placed in a college savings plan  
19 account within the preceding 12 months (except to the extent any of the  
20 contributions were made in the ordinary course of the debtor's financial  
21 affairs and were consistent with the debtor's past pattern of contributions)  
22 and only to the extent that the funds are for a child of the debtor and will  
23 actually be used for the child's college or university expenses.
- 24 (11) Retirement benefits under the retirement plans of other states and  
25 governmental units of other states, to the extent that these benefits are  
26 exempt under the laws of the state or governmental unit under which the  
27 benefit plan is established.
- 28 (12) Alimony, support, separate maintenance, and child support payments or  
29 funds that have been received or to which the debtor is entitled, to the extent  
30 the payments or funds are reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor  
31 or any dependent of the debtor.
- 32 (13) The debtor's aggregate interest, not to exceed eighteen thousand five  
33 hundred dollars (\$18,500) in value, in a burial plot for the debtor or a  
34 dependent of the debtor."

35 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.