

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

**SENATE BILL 18
RATIFIED BILL**

**AN ACT CLARIFYING THE DEFINITION OF JUDICIAL DISTRICTS UNDER THE
LAWS REGULATING THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 84-19 reads as rewritten:

"§ 84-19. Judicial districts definition.

For purposes of this Article, the term "judicial district" refers to prosecutorial districts established by the General Assembly and ~~the~~ includes the High Point Superior Court District as described under G.S. 7A-41(b)(13). The term "district bar" means the bar of a judicial district as defined by this section."

SECTION 2. G.S. 7A-142 reads as rewritten:

"§ 7A-142. Vacancies in office.

A vacancy in the office of district judge shall be filled for the unexpired term by appointment of the Governor from nominations submitted by the bar of the judicial district as defined in G.S. 84-19, except that in judicial District 9, when vacancies occur in District Court District 9 or 9B, only those members who reside in the district court district shall participate in the selection of the nominees. When vacancies occur in District Court District 18, all members who reside in the district court district shall participate in the selection of the nominees. If the district court district is comprised of counties in more than one judicial district, the nominees shall be submitted jointly by the bars of those judicial districts, but only those members who reside in the district court district shall participate in the selection of the nominees. If the district court judge was elected as the nominee of a political party, then the district bar shall submit to the Governor the names of three persons who are residents of the district court district who are duly authorized to practice law in the district and who are members of the same political party as the vacating judge; provided that if there are not three persons who are available, the bar shall submit the names of two persons who meet the qualifications of this sentence. If the district court judge was not elected as the nominee of a political party, then the district bar shall submit to the Governor the names of three persons who are residents of the district court district and who are duly authorized to practice law in the district; provided that if there are not three persons who are available, the bar shall submit the names of two persons who meet the qualifications of this sentence. Within 60 days after the district bar submits nominations for a vacancy, the Governor shall appoint to fill the vacancy. If the Governor fails to appoint a district bar nominee within 60 days, then the district bar nominee who received the highest number of votes from the district bar shall fill the vacancy. If the district bar fails to submit nominations within 30 days from the date the vacancy occurs, the Governor may appoint to fill the vacancy without waiting for nominations."



SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 4th day of April, 2011.

Walter H. Dalton
President of the Senate

Dale R. Folwell
Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives

Beverly E. Perdue
Governor

Approved _____m. this _____ day of _____, 2011