

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 115\*  
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/25/09  
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 4/16/09

Short Title: Joint DV Committee/Recommendations.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 11, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO RENAME THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR WOMEN/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION AND CLARIFY ITS ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES, TO EXPAND THE ROLE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR WOMEN AND DESIGNATE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP, TO REVISE THE MEMBERSHIP AND STAFFING OF THE NORTH CAROLINA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION, TO AMEND THE PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDER OR CIVIL NO-CONTACT ORDER, TO SUPPORT A STATEWIDE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROTECTIVE ORDER NOTIFICATION SYSTEM AND INVESTIGATE THE COSTS, AND TO STUDY STATE OVERSIGHT AND COORDINATION OF SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** The name of the current agency "North Carolina Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission," located within the Department of Administration, shall be renamed the "North Carolina Center for Women, Families, and Domestic Violence." The successor agency shall have the responsibility of providing staff and administrative support to the North Carolina Council for Women and to the North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission. All responsibilities relating to the administration of State grants, funds, or fees, which have been given by statute, or any other provision of law, to the Department of Administration, North Carolina Council for Women, shall be administered by the North Carolina Center for Women, Families, and Domestic Violence.

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 143B-393 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143B-393. North Carolina Council for Women – creation; powers and duties.**

There is hereby created the North Carolina Council for Women of the Department of Administration. The North Carolina Council for Women shall have the following functions and duties:

- (1) To advise the Governor, the principal State departments, and the State legislature concerning ~~the education and employment of women in the State of North Carolina; and~~ Carolina, including, but not limited to, the following issues:

- a. Employment.
- b. Education.
- c. Health.
- d. Pay equity.



- e. Domestic violence.
- f. Sexual violence.
- g. Housing.
- h. Child care.

- (2) To advise the Secretary of Administration upon any matter the Secretary may refer to it; and
- (3) To establish programs for the assistance of displaced homemakers as set forth in Part 10B of this Article."

SECTION 3. G.S. 143B-394 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143B-394. **North Carolina Council for Women – members; selection; quorum; compensation.**

(a) The North Carolina Council for Women of the Department of Administration shall consist of 20 members appointed by the Governor. The initial members of the Council shall be the appointed members of the North Carolina Council for Women, three of whose appointments expire June 30, 1977, and four of whose appointments expire June 30, 1978. Thirteen additional members shall be appointed in 1977, six of whom shall serve terms expiring June 30, 1978, and seven of whom shall serve terms expiring June 30, 1979. At the ends of the respective terms of office of the initial members of the Council and of the 13 members added in 1977, the appointment of their successors shall be for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and qualify. Any appointment to fill a vacancy on the Council created by the resignation, dismissal, death, or disability of a member shall be for the balance of the unexpired term. ~~Members of the Council shall be representative of age, sex, ethnic and geographic backgrounds.~~

(b) Members shall be representative of age, sex, and ethnic backgrounds, as well as reflect the geographic and cultural regions of the State. The members shall meet the following criteria:

- (1) Two members shall be representative of the educational community with specialized knowledge concerning available secondary and postsecondary education programs.
- (2) Two members shall be representative of the medical community with specialized knowledge concerning women's health issues.
- (3) One member shall be a representative of a center that is authorized to receive funding from the North Carolina Fund for Displaced Homemakers.
- (4) One member shall be an employee of the North Carolina Employment Security Commission.
- (5) One member shall be an attorney and member of the North Carolina State Bar who has studied issues relating to women.
- (6) One member shall be from the business community.
- (7) One member shall be a member of the law enforcement community with specialized knowledge of domestic violence and sexual violence issues.
- (8) One member shall be a representative of a linguistic and cultural minority community.
- (9) One member shall be a representative of a local service provider that provides services to victims of sexual violence and that is eligible to receive grant funds from the Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Center Fund.
- (10) One member shall be a representative of a local service provider that provides services to victims of domestic violence and is eligible to receive grant funds from the Domestic Violence Center Fund.
- (11) One member shall be an academician who is knowledgeable about trends and data relating to women's issues, such as those described in G.S. 143B-393.

1           (12) One member shall be a representative of a college or university who has  
2           educational background and expertise in the field of women's studies.

3           (13) One member shall be a representative of the North Carolina Child Care  
4           Coalition.

5           (14) Five members shall be from the public at large.

6           (c) The Governor shall have the power to remove any member of the Council from  
7 office in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 143B-16 of the Executive Organization Act of  
8 1973.

9           (d) The Governor shall designate a member of the Council to serve as chairman at the  
10 pleasure of the Governor.

11          (e) Members of the Council shall receive per diem and necessary travel and subsistence  
12 expenses in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 138-5.

13          A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

14          All clerical and other services required by the Council shall be supplied by the Secretary of  
15 Administration."

16          **SECTION 4.** The terms of all persons who are members of the North Carolina  
17 Council for Women on the effective date of this act shall expire on June 30, 2009. Ten of the  
18 20 appointed successors shall have terms that expire on June 30, 2010, and the appointment of  
19 their successors shall be for terms of two years and until their successors are appointed and  
20 qualify. The remaining 10 of the 20 appointed successors shall have terms that expire on June  
21 30, 2011, and the appointment of their successors shall be for terms of two years and until their  
22 successors are appointed and qualify.

23          **SECTION 5.** G.S. 143B-394.15 reads as rewritten:

24          ...

25          "(c) Membership. – The Commission shall consist of 39 members, who reflect the  
26 geographic and cultural regions of the State, as follows:

27          ...

28          (4) The following persons or their designees, ex officio:

29           a. The Governor.

30           b. The Lieutenant Governor.

31           c. The Attorney General.

32           d. The Secretary of the Department of Administration.

33           e. The Secretary of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

34           f. The Superintendent of Public Instruction.

35           g. The Secretary of the Department of Correction.

36           h. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.

37           i. The Director of the Office of State Personnel.

38           j. The ~~Executive Director~~ Chair of the North Carolina Council for  
39 Women.

40           k. The Dean of the School of Government at the University of North  
41 Carolina at Chapel Hill.

42           l. The Chairman of the Governor's Crime Commission.

43          ...

44          (l) Staffing. – The Secretary of the Department of Administration shall be responsible  
45 for staffing the Commission. ~~To that end, the Secretary shall, at a minimum, assign an~~  
46 ~~employee to serve as a Deputy Director within the North Carolina Council for Women whose~~  
47 ~~primary duties shall be to staff the Commission. The person assigned as Deputy Director shall~~  
48 ~~have the education, experience, and any other qualifications necessary for the position."~~

49          **SECTION 6.** G.S. 50B-2(a) reads as rewritten:

50          "**§ 50B-2. Institution of civil action; motion for emergency relief; temporary orders;**  
51          **temporary custody.**"

1 (a) Any person residing in this State may seek relief under this Chapter by filing a civil  
2 action or by filing a motion in any existing action filed under Chapter 50 of the General  
3 Statutes alleging acts of domestic violence against himself or herself or a minor child who  
4 resides with or is in the custody of such person. Any aggrieved party entitled to relief under this  
5 Chapter may file a civil action and proceed pro se, without the assistance of legal counsel. The  
6 district court division of the General Court of Justice shall have original jurisdiction over  
7 actions instituted under this Chapter. Any action for a domestic violence protective order  
8 requires that a summons be issued and served. The summons issued pursuant to this Chapter  
9 shall require the defendant to answer within 10 days of the date of service. Attachments to the  
10 summons shall include the complaint, notice of hearing, any temporary or ex parte order that  
11 has been issued, and other papers through the appropriate law enforcement agency where the  
12 defendant is to be served. No court costs shall be assessed for the filing, issuance, registration,  
13 or service of a protective order or petition for a protective order or witness subpoena in  
14 compliance with the Violence Against Women Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3796gg-5."

15 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 50C-3 (a) reads as rewritten:

16 "**§ 50C-3. Process for action for no-contact order.**

17 (a) Any action for a civil no-contact order requires that a ~~separate~~ summons be issued  
18 and served. The summons issued pursuant to this Chapter shall require the respondent to  
19 answer within 10 days of the date of service. Attachments to the summons shall include the  
20 complaint for the civil no-contact order, and any temporary civil no-contact order that has been  
21 issued and the notice of hearing on the temporary civil no-contact order."

22 **SECTION 8.** The Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence supports the  
23 adoption of an automated statewide domestic violence protective order notification system. In  
24 order to determine the financial and operational impact of developing the system, the  
25 Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the Governor's Crime Commission  
26 and the North Carolina Attorney General's Office, shall (i) identify information in available  
27 databases relating to civil domestic violence protective orders, criminal no-contact order  
28 conditions, and postarrest conditions of release and (ii) determine the financial impact,  
29 including personnel costs, for implementing a domestic violence protective order notification  
30 system which interfaces with the North Carolina Statewide Automated Victim Assistance  
31 Notification System. The Governor's Crime Commission shall report the findings to the Joint  
32 Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence and the Fiscal Research Division by July 1,  
33 2009.

34 **SECTION 9.** The North Carolina Domestic Violence Commission, in consultation  
35 with the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the North Carolina Coalition  
36 Against Sexual Assault, shall study the issue of State oversight and coordination of services to  
37 victims of sexual violence and whether sexual violence should be included as a focus area of  
38 the Commission. The study shall include, but is not limited to, a review of the organization and  
39 membership of entities in other states that provide (i) information and recommendations to state  
40 legislatures on domestic and sexual violence, and (ii) information and services to the public  
41 regarding these issues. The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations to the  
42 Joint Legislative Committee on Domestic Violence by July 1, 2009.

43 **SECTION 10.** Sections 6 and 7 of this act are effective for actions or motions filed  
44 on or after December 1, 2009. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.