

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 726  
Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 5/13/09  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 8/4/09  
Fourth Edition Engrossed 8/5/09

Short Title: Amend House Arrest Laws/Adult/Juvenile.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 24, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT HOUSE ARREST MAY BE IMPOSED AS A CONDITION OF PRETRIAL RELEASE; TO PROVIDE THAT THE COURT MAY AUTHORIZE AN OFFENDER UNDER ELECTRONIC HOUSE ARREST TO LEAVE THE OFFENDER'S RESIDENCE FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSES AND THE COURT OR PROBATION OFFICER MAY MODIFY THOSE CONDITIONS; AND TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF HOUSE ARREST UNDER JUVENILE LAW TO STATE THE SPECIFIC PURPOSES FOR WHICH A JUVENILE MAY BE AUTHORIZED TO LEAVE THE JUVENILE'S RESIDENCE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 7B-1501(12) reads as rewritten:

"In this Subchapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following words have the listed meanings. The singular includes the plural, unless otherwise specified.

...

(12) House arrest. – A requirement that the juvenile remain at the juvenile's residence unless the court or the juvenile court counselor authorizes the juvenile to leave for specific purposes, school, counseling, work, or other similar specific purposes, provided the juvenile is accompanied in transit by a parent, legal guardian, or other person approved by the juvenile court counselor."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 15A-531 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(5a) House arrest with electronic monitoring. – Pretrial release in which the offender is required to remain at his or her residence unless the court authorizes the offender to leave for the purpose of employment, counseling, a course of study, or vocational training. The offender shall be required to wear a device which permits the supervising agency to electronically monitor the offender's compliance with the condition."

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 15A-534(a) reads as rewritten:

"§ 15A-534. Procedure for determining conditions of pretrial release.

(a) In determining conditions of pretrial release a judicial official must impose at least one of the following conditions:

(1) Release the defendant on his written promise to appear.

(2) Release the defendant upon his execution of an unsecured appearance bond in an amount specified by the judicial official.



- 1 (3) Place the defendant in the custody of a designated person or organization  
2 agreeing to supervise him.
- 3 (4) Require the execution of an appearance bond in a specified amount secured  
4 by a cash deposit of the full amount of the bond, by a mortgage pursuant to  
5 G.S. 58-74-5, or by at least one solvent surety.

6 (5) House arrest with electronic monitoring.

7 If condition (5) is imposed, the defendant must execute a secured appearance bond under  
8 subdivision (4) of this subsection. If condition (3) is imposed, however, the defendant may  
9 elect to execute an appearance bond under subdivision (4). The judicial official may also place  
10 restrictions on the travel, associations, conduct, or place of abode of the defendant as conditions  
11 of pretrial release."

12 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 15A-534(b) reads as rewritten:

13 "(b) The judicial official in granting pretrial release must impose condition (1), (2), or  
14 (3) in subsection (a) above unless he determines that such release will not reasonably assure the  
15 appearance of the defendant as required; will pose a danger of injury to any person; or is likely  
16 to result in destruction of evidence, subornation of perjury, or intimidation of potential  
17 witnesses. Upon making the determination, the judicial official must then impose condition (4)  
18 or (5) in subsection (a) above instead of condition (1), (2), or (3), and must record the reasons  
19 for so doing in writing to the extent provided in the policies or requirements issued by the  
20 senior resident superior court judge pursuant to G.S. 15A-535(a)."

21 **SECTION 4.1.** If Senate Bill 1078, 2009 Regular Session, becomes law,  
22 G.S. 15A-534(d2)(1) as enacted by that act, reads as rewritten:

23 "(1) If the judicial official determines that the defendant poses a danger to the  
24 public, the judicial official must impose condition (4) or (5) in subsection (a)  
25 of this section instead of condition (1), (2), or (3)."

26 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 15A-535(a) reads as rewritten:

27 "(a) Subject to the provisions of this Article, the senior resident superior court judge for  
28 each district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) in consultation with the chief  
29 district court judge or judges of all the district court districts in which are located any of the  
30 counties in the senior resident superior court judge's district or set of districts, must devise and  
31 issue recommended policies to be followed within each of those counties in determining  
32 whether, and upon what conditions, a defendant may be released before trial, and may include  
33 in such policies, or issue separately, a requirement that each judicial official who imposes  
34 condition (4) or (5) in G.S. 15A-534(a) must record the reasons for doing so in writing."

35 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 15A-1340.11(4a) reads as rewritten:

36 "The following definitions apply in this Article:

37 ...

38 (4a) House arrest with electronic monitoring. – Probation in which the offender is  
39 required to remain at his or her residence unless the court or the probation  
40 officer authorizes the offender to leave for the purpose of employment,  
41 counseling, a course of study, or vocational training. residence. The court, in  
42 the sentencing order, may authorize the offender to leave the offender's  
43 residence for employment, counseling, a course of study, vocational training,  
44 or other specific purposes and may modify that authorization. The probation  
45 officer may authorize the offender to leave the offender's residence for  
46 specific purposes not authorized in the court order upon approval of the  
47 probation officer's supervisor. The offender shall be required to wear a  
48 device which permits the supervising agency to monitor the offender's  
49 compliance with the condition electronically."

50 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 15A-1343(b1)(3c) reads as rewritten:

1       "(b1) Special Conditions. – In addition to the regular conditions of probation specified in  
2 subsection (b), the court may, as a condition of probation, require that during the probation the  
3 defendant comply with one or more of the following special conditions:

4           ...

5           (3c) ~~Remain at his or her residence unless the court or the probation officer~~  
6 ~~authorizes the offender to leave for the purpose of employment, counseling,~~  
7 ~~a course of study, or vocational training.~~ residence. The court, in the  
8 sentencing order, may authorize the offender to leave the offender's  
9 residence for employment, counseling, a course of study, vocational training,  
10 or other specific purposes and may modify that authorization. The probation  
11 officer may authorize the offender to leave the offender's residence for  
12 specific purposes not authorized in the court order upon approval of the  
13 probation officer's supervisor. The offender shall be required to wear a  
14 device which permits the supervising agency to monitor the offender's  
15 compliance with the condition electronically and to pay a fee for the device  
16 as specified in subsection (c2) of this section."

17           **SECTION 8.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2009, and applies to  
18 offenses committed on or after that date.