

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011**

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**SENATE DRS35173-LH-138\* (03/24)**

Short Title: AOC/Custody & Availability of Ct Records.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS IS A  
3 CUSTODIAN OF COURT RECORDS, TO CLARIFY THAT THOSE COURT  
4 RECORDS ARE A PUBLIC RECORD AND ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST TO A  
5 THIRD PARTY UPON PAYMENT OF A REASONABLE AMOUNT TO COVER  
6 REPRODUCTION COSTS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-109(d) reads as rewritten:

9 "(d) In order to facilitate public access to court records, except where public access is  
10 prohibited by law, the Director may enter into one or more nonexclusive contracts ~~under~~  
11 ~~reasonable cost recovery terms~~ with third parties to provide remote electronic access to the  
12 records by the public. The records shall be provided to any third party who remits to the State  
13 Treasurer a sum that compensates the State for the actual cost of reproducing the records  
14 pursuant to G.S. 132-6.2. Payment of the sum shall be the sole requirement imposed upon the  
15 third party seeking records. Costs recovered pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the  
16 State Treasurer to be held The sums remitted to the State Treasurer pursuant to this subsection  
17 shall be held in the Court Information Technology Fund established in G.S. 7A-343.2. Nothing  
18 in this subsection shall be construed to supersede the provisions and requirement of  
19 G.S. 132-1."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 7A-109 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

21 "(f) Any collection of court records maintained under this section is a public record and  
22 shall be provided by the Director in its entirety upon request, absent express statutory  
23 exemptions, pursuant to G.S. 132-1. The Director shall be considered a custodian of such  
24 records for purposes pursuant to G.S. 132-1."

25 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

