

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 227

Short Title: Preserve Tenancy by the Entirety. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Davis, Jordan, and Stevens (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 2, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO MAKE CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CLARIFY THAT TENANCY BY THE ENTIRETY IS PRESERVED IN THIS STATE IN LIGHT OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT DECISION IN *OBERGEFELL V. HODGES*, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 39-13.3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 39-13.3. **Conveyances between ~~husband and wife~~ spouses.**

(a) A conveyance from a ~~husband or wife to the other~~ married grantor to that individual's spouse of real property or any interest therein owned by the grantor alone vests ~~such the~~ property or interest in the grantee.

(b) A conveyance of real property, or any interest therein, by a ~~husband or a wife to such husband and wife~~ married grantor to that individual and the individual's spouse vests the same property in the ~~husband and wife~~ grantees as tenants by the entirety unless a contrary intention is expressed in the conveyance.

(c) A conveyance from a ~~husband or a wife to the other~~ married individual to that individual's spouse of real property, or any interest therein, held by ~~such husband and wife the spouses~~ as tenants by the entirety dissolves ~~such the~~ tenancy in the property or interest conveyed and vests ~~such the~~ property or interest formerly held by the entirety in the grantee.

(d) The joinder of the spouse of the grantor in any conveyance made by a ~~husband or a wife~~ married grantor pursuant to the foregoing provisions of this section is not necessary.

(e) Any conveyance authorized by this section is subject to the provisions of G.S. 52-10 or 52-10.1, except that acknowledgment by the spouse of the grantor is not necessary."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 39-13.6 reads as rewritten:

"§ 39-13.6. **Control of real property held in tenancy by the entirety.**

(a) ~~A husband and wife~~ Two individuals married to each other shall have an equal right to the control, use, possession, rents, income, and profits of real property held by them in tenancy by the entirety. Neither spouse may bargain, sell, lease, mortgage, transfer, convey or in any manner encumber any property so held without the written joinder of the other spouse. This section shall not be construed to require the spouse's joinder where a different provision is made under G.S. 39-13, G.S. 39-13.3, G.S. 39-13.4, or G.S. 52-10.

(b) ~~A~~ Unless a contrary intention is expressed in the conveyance, a conveyance of real property, or any interest therein, to a ~~husband and wife~~ two individuals then married to each other vests title in them as tenants by the entirety when the conveyance is to:

(1) A named ~~man~~ individual "and wife," or



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1 (2) A named ~~woman~~individual "and husband," or  
2 (2a) A named individual "and spouse," or  
3 (3) Two named ~~persons, individuals,~~ whether or not identified in the conveyance as  
4 being (i) husband and wife, (ii) spouses, or (iii) married to each other, if at the  
5 time of conveyance they are legally ~~married;~~married to each other.

6 ~~unless a contrary intention is expressed in the conveyance.~~

7 (c) For income tax purposes, each spouse is considered to have received one-half (1/2) the  
8 income or loss from property owned by the couple as tenants by the entirety."

9 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 39-13.7 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 39-13.7. Tenancy by the entireties trusts in real property.**

11 (a) Any real property held by ~~a husband and wife~~ two individuals married to each other as  
12 a tenancy by the entireties and conveyed to (i) a joint trust or (ii) in equal shares to two separate  
13 trusts; shall no longer be held by ~~the husband and wife~~ them as tenants by the entirety and shall be  
14 disposed of by the terms of the trust or trusts, but, subject to the provisions of subsection (b) of  
15 this section, the real property shall have the same immunity from the claims of the separate  
16 creditors of ~~the husband and wife~~ each spouse as would exist if the spouses had continued to hold  
17 the property as tenants by the entireties.

18 (b) The immunity from the claims of separate creditors provided by subsection (a) of this  
19 section shall apply as long as all of the following apply:

20 (1) ~~The husband and wife~~ two individuals remain married.~~married to each other.~~

21 (2) The real property continues to be held in the trust or trusts as provided in  
22 subsection (a) of this section.

23 (3) Both ~~husband and wife~~ spouses are current beneficiaries of the joint trust if the  
24 real property is conveyed to that trust or of each separate trust if the real  
25 property is conveyed in equal shares to their separate trusts.

26 (c) After the death of the first ~~of the husband and wife~~ spouse to die, all property held in  
27 trust that was immune from the claims of their separate creditors under subsection (a) of this  
28 section immediately prior to the individual's death shall continue to have immunity from the  
29 claims of the decedent's separate creditors as would have existed if ~~the husband and wife~~ both  
30 spouses continued to hold the property conveyed in trust as tenants by the entirety.

31 (d) The trustee acting under the express provisions of a trust instrument or with the written  
32 consent of both ~~the husband and wife~~ spouses may waive the immunity from the claims of  
33 separate creditors provided under this section as to any specific creditor or any specifically  
34 described property including all separate creditors of a ~~husband and wife~~ spouse or all former  
35 tenancy by the entirety property conveyed to the trustee.

36 (e) For purposes of this section:

37 (1) The reference to the real property conveyed to or held in the trust shall be  
38 deemed to include the proceeds arising from the involuntary conversion of the  
39 real property.

40 (2) The reference to a "joint trust" means a revocable or irrevocable trust of which  
41 both ~~the husband and wife~~ spouses are the settlors, and the reference to  
42 "separate trusts" means revocable or irrevocable trusts of which ~~the husband~~  
43 one spouse is the settlor of one trust and the ~~wife~~ other spouse is the settlor of  
44 the other trust.

45 (3) The ~~husband and wife~~ two spouses are "beneficiaries" of a trust if they are  
46 distributees or permissible distributees of the income or principal of the trust  
47 whether or not other persons are also current or future beneficiaries of the  
48 trust."

49 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 41-2 reads as rewritten:

50 **"§ 41-2. Survivorship in joint tenancy defined; proviso as to partnership; unequal**  
51 **ownership interests.**

1 ...  
2 (b) The interests of the grantees holding property in joint tenancy with right of  
3 survivorship shall be deemed to be equal unless otherwise specified in the conveyance. Any joint  
4 tenancy interest held by ~~a husband and wife, two individuals then married to each other,~~ unless  
5 otherwise specified, shall be deemed to be held by them as a single tenancy by the entirety, which  
6 shall be treated as a single party when determining interests in the joint tenancy with right of  
7 survivorship. Joint tenancy interests among two or more joint tenants holding property in joint  
8 tenancy with right of survivorship are subject to the provisions of G.S. 28A-24-3 upon the death of  
9 one or more of the joint tenants.

10 This subsection shall apply to any conveyance of an interest in property created at any time  
11 that explicitly sought to create unequal ownership interests in a joint tenancy with right of  
12 survivorship. Distributions made prior to the enactment of this subsection that were made in equal  
13 amounts from a joint tenancy with the right of survivorship that sought to create unequal  
14 ownership shares shall remain valid and shall not be subject to modification on the basis of this  
15 subsection."

16 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 41-2.5 reads as rewritten:

17 "**§ 41-2.5. Tenancy by the entirety in mobile homes.**

18 (a) When ~~a husband and wife, two individuals then married to each other~~ become  
19 co-owners of a mobile home, in the absence of anything to the contrary appearing in the  
20 instrument of title, they become tenants by the entirety with all the incidents of an estate by the  
21 entirety in real property, including the right of survivorship in the case of death of either.

22 (b) For the purpose of this section it shall be immaterial whether the property at any  
23 particular time shall be classified for any purpose as either real or personal. The provisions of  
24 subsection (a) of this section shall not limit or prohibit any other type of ownership otherwise  
25 authorized by law.

26 (c) For purposes of this section "mobile home" means a portable manufactured housing  
27 unit designed for transportation on its own chassis and placement on a temporary or  
28 semipermanent foundation having a measurement of over 32 feet in length and over eight feet in  
29 width. As used in this ~~Article, section,~~ "mobile home" also means a double-wide mobile home  
30 which is two or more portable manufactured housing units designed for transportation on their  
31 own chassis, which connect on site for placement on a temporary or semipermanent foundation  
32 having a measurement of over 32 feet in length and over eight feet in width.

33 (d) This section does not repeal or modify any provisions of the law relating to estate or  
34 inheritance taxes."

35 **SECTION 6.(a)** This act is intended to reflect rights established by federal law that  
36 became effective in this State on October 10, 2014, by application of *General Synod of the United*  
37 *Church of Christ v. Resinger*, 12 F.Supp.3d 790 (W.D. N.C., Oct. 10, 2014).

38 **SECTION 6.(b)** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to conveyances  
39 made on or after October 10, 2014.