

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 841

Short Title: Dissent from a Will Change.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Johnson of Wake.

Referred to: Judiciary III.

April 11, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REWRITE THE LAW CONCERNING THE EFFECT OF A DISSENT
FROM A WILL BY A SURVIVING SPOUSE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 30-3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 30-3. Effect of dissent.

(a) Upon dissent as provided for in G.S. 30-2, the surviving spouse, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, shall take the same share of the deceased spouse's real and personal property as if the deceased had died intestate; provided, that if the deceased spouse is not survived by a child, children, or any lineal descendants of a deceased child or children, or by a parent, the surviving spouse shall receive only one half of the deceased spouse's net estate as defined in G.S. 29-2(5), which one half shall be estimated and determined before any federal estate tax is deducted or paid and shall be free and clear of such tax.

(b) Whenever the surviving spouse is a second or successive spouse, he or she shall take only one half of the amount provided by the Intestate Succession Act for the surviving spouse if the testator has surviving him lineal descendants by a former marriage but there are no lineal descendants surviving him by the second or successive marriage.

(c) If the surviving spouse dissents from his or her deceased spouse's will and takes ~~an intestate~~ a share as determined by reference to the Intestate Succession Act as provided herein, the residue of the testator's net estate, as defined in G.S. 29-2, shall be distributed to the other devisees and legatees as provided in the testator's last will, diminished pro rata unless the will otherwise provides.

1 If there is a disposition by the testator's will to an **inter vivos** trust that was
2 revocable by the testator immediately prior to the death of the testator, if under the
3 terms of the trust the surviving spouse is entitled to any interest in the trust or is granted
4 any power or nomination with respect to the trust, then, unless the will or trust
5 instrument provides otherwise, the surviving spouse shall be deemed for purposes of the
6 trust to have predeceased the testator, and the trust shall be disposed of and
7 administered as if the surviving spouse had predeceased the testator and there shall be
8 an acceleration of the remainder or other interests in all property bequeathed or devised
9 to the trust by the will, and all property held by the trustee at the time of the death of the
10 decedent, and in all property that comes into the hands of the trustee by reason of the
11 death of the decedent to the extent that the decedent had the right to control the
12 disposition of said property immediately prior to the death of the decedent.

13 (d) No personal representative, fiduciary or other person liable for distributing or
14 disposing of property in accordance with the testator's will or an **inter vivos** trust
15 described in this subsection shall be liable for distributing or disposing of property in
16 accordance with such will or trust agreement if the distribution or disposition is
17 otherwise proper and the personal representative, trustee or other person has no actual
18 knowledge of the facts that constitute a revocation of the surviving spouse's rights as
19 devisee or a beneficiary under the will or trust under this section."

20 Sec. 2. This act shall become effective upon ratification and shall apply to
21 the estates of all decedents dying on or after the date of ratification.