

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

S

3

SENATE BILL 606  
Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 5/5/09  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/30/09

Short Title: Notice to Creditors Without Estate Admin.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR PROVIDING NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
3 WITHOUT ESTATE ADMINISTRATION WHEN A DECEDENT DIES LEAVING NO  
4 PROPERTY SUBJECT TO PROBATE AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION  
5 TO THE PROVISION PROVIDING FOR COSTS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
6 ESTATES.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 SECTION 1. Chapter 28A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
9 Article to read:

10 "Article 29.

11 "Notice to Creditors Without Estate Administration.

12 "**§ 28A-29-1. Notice to creditors with estate administration.**

13 When a decedent dies testate or intestate leaving no property subject to probate, any person  
14 otherwise qualified to serve as personal representative of the estate pursuant to Article 4 of this  
15 Chapter or the trustee then serving under the terms of a revocable trust created by the decedent  
16 may file a petition to be appointed as a limited personal representative to provide notice to  
17 creditors without administration of an estate before the clerk of superior court of the county  
18 where the decedent was domiciled at the time of death. This procedure is not available if the  
19 decedent's will provides that it is not available. A limited personal representative shall have the  
20 rights and obligations provided for in this Article.

21 "**§ 28A-29-2. Petition.**

22 (a) The application for appointment as limited personal representative shall be in the  
23 form of an affidavit sworn to before an officer authorized to administer oaths, signed by the  
24 applicant or the applicant's attorney, which may be supported by other proof under oath in  
25 writing, all of which shall be recorded and filed by the clerk of superior court, and shall allege  
26 the following facts:

27 (1) The name and domicile of the decedent at the time of death;

28 (2) The date and place of death of the decedent;

29 (3) That, so far as is known or can with reasonable diligence be ascertained, the  
30 decedent's property is not subject to probate; and

31 (4) That no application or petition for appointment of a personal representative  
32 is pending or has been granted in this State.

33 (b) If it appears to the clerk of superior court that the application and supporting  
34 evidence comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section and on the basis thereof  
35 the clerk finds that the applicant is entitled to appointment, the clerk shall issue letters of  
36 limited administration.



1 (c) The petition shall be filed by the clerk upon payment of the fee provided in  
2 G.S. 7A-307(a) and shall be indexed in the index to estates.

3 **"§ 28A-29-3. Effect of appointment.**

4 A limited personal representative appointed under this Article shall provide notice to all  
5 persons, firms, and corporations having claims against the decedent, and proof of such notice  
6 shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 of this Chapter.

7 **"§ 28A-29-4. Presentation, payment, and limitation of claims.**

8 Upon compliance with G.S. 28A-29-3, creditors of the decedent and the decedent's property  
9 shall present claims in accordance with the provisions of Article 19 of this Chapter, and  
10 creditors failing to file such claims shall be barred as provided in G.S. 28A-19-3. The limited  
11 personal representative shall administer claims so presented in accordance with the procedures  
12 and priorities provided pursuant to Article 19 of this Chapter. At any time after a claim is  
13 presented in accordance with the provisions of this section, the clerk may appoint a personal  
14 representative to administer the decedent's estate.

15 **"§ 28A-29-5. Right to petition for appointment of personal representative.**

16 Nothing in this Article shall preclude any person qualified to serve as personal  
17 representative pursuant to G.S. 28A-4-1, including the limited personal representative, from  
18 petitioning the clerk of superior court for the appointment of a personal representative to  
19 administer the decedent's estate."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 7A-307(a) reads as rewritten:

21 "(a) In the administration of the estates of decedents, minors, incompetents, of missing  
22 persons, and of trusts under wills and under powers of attorney, in trust proceedings under  
23 ~~G.S. 36A-23-1~~, G.S. 36C-2-203, and in collections of personal property by affidavit, the  
24 following costs shall be assessed:

- 25 (1) For the use of the courtroom and related judicial facilities, the sum of ten  
26 dollars (\$10.00), to be remitted to the county. Funds derived from the  
27 facilities fees shall be used in the same manner, for the same purposes, and  
28 subject to the same restrictions, as facilities fees assessed in criminal actions.
- 29 (1a) For the upgrade, maintenance, and operation of the judicial and county  
30 courthouse phone systems, the sum of one dollar (\$1.00), to be credited to  
31 the Court Information Technology Fund.
- 32 (2) For support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00),  
33 plus an additional forty cents (40¢) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or  
34 major fraction thereof, of the gross estate, not to exceed six thousand dollars  
35 (\$6,000). Gross estate shall include the fair market value of all personalty  
36 when received, and all proceeds from the sale of realty coming into the  
37 hands of the fiduciary, but shall not include the value of realty. In collections  
38 of personal property by affidavit, the fee based on the gross estate shall be  
39 computed from the information in the final affidavit of collection made  
40 pursuant to G.S. 28A-25-3 and shall be paid when that affidavit is filed. In  
41 all other cases, this fee shall be computed from the information reported in  
42 the inventory and shall be paid when the inventory is filed with the clerk. If  
43 additional gross estate, including income, comes into the hands of the  
44 fiduciary after the filing of the inventory, the fee for such additional value  
45 shall be assessed and paid upon the filing of any account or report disclosing  
46 such additional value. For each filing the minimum fee shall be fifteen  
47 dollars (\$15.00). Sums collected under this subdivision shall be remitted to  
48 the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall remit the sum of two dollars  
49 and five cents (\$2.05) of each fifty-dollar (\$50.00) General Court of Justice  
50 fee collected under this subdivision to the North Carolina State Bar for the  
51 provision of services described in G.S. 7A-474.4.

- 1 (2a) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, the fee of forty cents  
2 (40¢) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or major fraction, of the gross  
3 estate, not to exceed six thousand dollars (\$6,000), shall not be assessed on  
4 personalty received by a trust under a will when the estate of the decedent  
5 was administered under Chapters 28 or 28A of the General Statutes. Instead,  
6 a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) shall be assessed on the filing of each annual  
7 and final account. However, the fee shall be assessed only on newly  
8 contributed or acquired assets, all interest or other income that accrues or is  
9 earned on or with respect to any existing or newly contributed or acquired  
10 assets, and realized gains on the sale of any and all trust assets. Newly  
11 contributed or acquired assets do not include assets acquired by the sale,  
12 transfer, exchange, or otherwise of the amount of trust property on which  
13 fees were previously assessed.
- 14 (2b) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, no costs shall be  
15 assessed when the estate is administered or settled pursuant to  
16 G.S. 28A-25-6.
- 17 (2c) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, the fee of forty cents  
18 (40¢) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or major fraction, of the gross  
19 estate shall not be assessed on the gross estate of a trust that is the subject of  
20 a proceeding under ~~G.S. 36A-23-1~~ G.S. 36C-2-203 if there is no requirement  
21 in the trust that accountings be filed with the clerk.
- 22 (2d) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, the only cost  
23 assessed in connection with the qualification of a limited personal  
24 representative under G.S. 28A-29-1 shall be a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00)  
25 to be assessed upon the filing of the petition.
- 26 (3) For probate of a will without qualification of a personal representative, the  
27 clerk shall assess a facilities fee as provided in subdivision (1) of this  
28 subsection and shall assess for support of the General Court of Justice, the  
29 sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00)."

30 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2009, and applies to estates of  
31 persons dying on or after that date.