

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 851\*

Short Title: Supervision of Certain Defendants. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Vaughan.

Referred to: Judiciary II.

March 25, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW DISTRICT COURTS TO SUPERVISE DEFENDANTS CONVICTED  
IN SUPERIOR COURT WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO DRUG TREATMENT COURTS OR  
PROBLEM-SOLVING COURTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-271 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(f) The superior court has exclusive jurisdiction over all hearings to revoke probation pursuant to G.S. 15A-1345(e) in which the district court is supervising a drug treatment court or a problem-solving criminal court probation judgment under G.S. 7A-272(e)."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 7A-272 is amended by adding two new subsections to read:

"(e) With the consent of the chief district court judge and the senior resident superior court judge, the district court has jurisdiction to preside over the supervision of probation judgments entered in superior court in which the defendant is required to participate in a drug treatment court program pursuant to G.S. 15A-1343(b1)(2b) or a problem-solving criminal court, as defined in subsection (f) of this section, or is participating in the drug treatment court pursuant to a deferred prosecution agreement under G.S. 15A-1341(a2). The district court may modify or extend the probation judgment, but jurisdiction to revoke probation supervised under this subsection is as provided in G.S. 7A-271(f).

(f) As used in subsection (e) of this section, the term "problem-solving criminal court" refers to a court program, other than a drug treatment court established pursuant to Article 62 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes, in which a criminal defendant, either as a condition of probation or pursuant to a deferred prosecution agreement under G.S. 15A-1341, is ordered to participate in specified activities designed to address underlying problems, such as substance abuse or mental illness, that contribute to the person's criminal activity. The ordered activities shall, at a minimum, require the person to participate in treatment and attend regular court sessions of the treatment court over an extended period of time. The senior resident superior court judge and the chief district court judge shall agree in writing that the problem-solving criminal court is being established before jurisdiction established by subsection (f) may be exercised by the district court."

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 15A-1344(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Authority to Alter or Revoke. – Except as provided in subsection (a1) or (b), probation may be reduced, terminated, continued, extended, modified, or revoked by any judge entitled to sit in the court which imposed probation and who is resident or presiding in the district court district as defined in G.S. 7A-133 or superior court district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1, as the case may be, where the sentence of probation was imposed, where the probationer violates probation, or where the probationer resides. Upon a finding that an offender sentenced to community punishment under Article 81B has violated one or more



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1 conditions of probation, the court's authority to modify the probation judgment includes the  
2 authority to require the offender to comply with conditions of probation that would otherwise  
3 make the sentence an intermediate punishment. The district attorney of the prosecutorial district  
4 as defined in G.S. 7A-60 in which probation was imposed must be given reasonable notice of  
5 any hearing to affect probation substantially."

6 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 15A-1344 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 "(a1) Authority to Supervise Probation in Drug Treatment Court or Problem-Solving  
8 Criminal Court. – Jurisdiction to supervise and modify probation imposed in cases in which the  
9 offender is required to participate in a drug treatment court or a problem-solving criminal court  
10 is as provided in G.S. 7A-272(e) and (f) and G.S. 7A-271(f). Proceedings to modify or revoke  
11 probation in such cases shall be held in the county in which the drug treatment court or  
12 problem-solving court is located."

13 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2009, and applies to probation  
14 judgments entered or deferred prosecution agreements executed on or after that date.