

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
1983 SESSION

CHAPTER 699  
HOUSE BILL 1284

AN ACT AUTHORIZING REGISTERS OF DEEDS TO MAINTAIN COMPUTER INDEXES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 161-22 is rewritten to read:

**"§ 161-22. Index of registered instruments.** – (a) The register of deeds shall provide and keep in her or his office full and complete alphabetical indexes of the names of the parties to all liens, grants, deeds, mortgages, bonds, and other instruments required or authorized to be registered, and such indexes shall state in full the names of all parties, whether grantors, grantees, vendors, vendees, obligors, or obligees. Reference shall be made, opposite each name, to the book and page or other location where the instrument is registered. All instruments shall be indexed on either the temporary or permanent index within 24 hours of registration.

(b) In offices using the 'Family' index system, the index entry shall show the name of each party under the appropriate family name and the initials of the party under the appropriate alphabetical arrangement of the index. In offices using indexing systems having subdivisions of the letters of the alphabet, a registered instrument shall be deemed properly registered only when it has been indexed under the correct subdivision of the appropriate letter of the alphabet.

(c) Instruments affecting real property shall be indexed in the appropriate real property indexes, and instruments affecting personal property shall be indexed in the appropriate personal property indexes. Instruments affecting both real and personal property shall be indexed in both the real and personal property indexes.

(d) Deeds of trust may be indexed in the names of the grantor and trustee only.

(e) Certificates filed for recording pursuant to G.S. 59-2, the Uniform Limited Partnership Act, shall be indexed only under the names of the partnership and each of the general partners. The register of deeds shall cause a statement to be affixed or printed on the index page of the book or books in which limited partnership agreements are filed that such documents are indexed only in the names of the partnership and of each of the general partners.

(f) The alphabetical indexes required by this section may be maintained in index books, on index cards, on film, or in computers or other automated data-processing machines. If the index is maintained in a computer or other automated data processing machine, the register of deeds shall, at least once each month, obtain from the computer or other automated data- processing machine a printed copy on paper or film, or a tape or disk, of all index entries made since the previous printed or filmed copy, or tape or

disk, was obtained. These printed or filmed copies, tapes or disks, shall be retained as security copies and may not be altered or destroyed until a subsequent security copy is made containing the index entries from all previous security copies.

(g) The register of deeds may adopt rules establishing indexing procedures and the format of the indexes. Such rules shall be in conformity with the requirements of this section and of other applicable statutes and may address such subjects, by way of example and not limitation, as the indexing of business firms, the indexing of names containing numerals, and the indexing of government agencies. Such rules shall be posted in at least two prominent places in the register of deeds' office and shall also be placed near the index books or in user manuals in offices using automated indexing systems. From and after the effective date of such rules, a registered instrument shall be deemed properly registered only when it has been indexed according to the rules.

(h) No instrument shall be deemed registered until it has been indexed as provided in this section.

(i) A violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor."

Sec. 2. G.S. 51-18 is rewritten to read:

**"§ 51-18. Record of license and returns; originals filed.** – The register of deeds shall maintain a separate index for marriage licenses and returns thereto. Each marriage license shall be indexed alphabetically according to the name of the proposed husband and proposed wife. Each index entry shall include, but not be limited to, the full name of the intended husband and wife, the date the marriage ceremony was performed, and the location of the original license and the return thereon. The original license and return shall be filed and preserved."

Sec. 3. Chapter 127, 1983 Session Laws is repealed.

Sec. 4. This act is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 6th day of July, 1983.