

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011

SESSION LAW 2011-351
SENATE BILL 519

AN ACT TO ALLOW THAT A CONTRACT TO CONVEY REAL ESTATE MAY BE REGISTERED BY REGISTERING A MEMORANDUM OF CONTRACT AND TO REQUIRE THAT DEEDS AND DEEDS OF TRUST PREPARED IN OTHER STATES AND PRESENTED FOR REGISTRATION TO THE REGISTER OF DEEDS OF ANY COUNTY IN THIS STATE SHALL BEAR AN ENTRY SHOWING THE NAME OF EITHER THE PERSON OR LAW FIRM WHO DRAFTED THE INSTRUMENT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 8 of Chapter 47 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

"§ 47-119.1. Form of memorandum for contract to purchase real estate.

A contract to convey real estate may be registered by registering a memorandum thereof which shall set forth all of the following:

- (1) The names of the parties thereto.
- (2) A description of the property which is subject to the contract.
- (3) The expiration date of the contract.
- (4) Reference sufficient to identify the complete agreement between the parties.

The memorandum may be in substantially the following form:

NORTH CAROLINA
 COUNTY

(Name and address of person contracting to sell real estate)
and

(Name and address of person contracting to purchase real estate)
have entered into a contract to sell and purchase the following property:

(Here describe property)

This contract provides for a closing date of the _____ day of _____, _____.

The provisions set forth in a written contract to convey real estate between the parties dated the day of _____, _____, are hereby incorporated in this memorandum.

Witness our hand(s) and seal(s) this _____ day of _____, _____.

(Seal)

(Seal)

[Acknowledgement notarial certificate by all parties, as provided by applicable law in order to register in the office of the register of deeds of the county in which the property is located.]

The titles of the contract and the parties thereto, as contained in the original written contract, may be substituted in lieu of the above references."

SECTION 2. G.S. 47-120 reads as rewritten:

"§ 47-120. Memorandum as notice.



Such memorandum of ~~an option to purchase real estate, or lease a lease, an option to purchase real estate, or a contract to convey real estate~~ as proposed by ~~G.S. 47-118 or 47-119, G.S. 47-118, 47-119, or 47-119.1~~ when executed, acknowledged, delivered and registered as required by law, shall be as good and sufficient notice, and have the same force and effect as if the written ~~lease or lease, option to purchase real estate~~ estate, or contract to convey had been registered in its entirety. However, it shall be conclusively presumed that the conditions of any contract to purchase that is the subject of a recorded memorandum under this section have been complied with or have expired and are no longer enforceable as against creditors or purchasers for valuable consideration who have recorded their interests after the memorandum from and after the expiration of 60 days from whichever of the following events occurs first:

- (1) The closing date stated in the memorandum, or any recorded extension or renewal of the memorandum, signed by the parties and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements.
- (2) The date when the conditions of the contract to convey, including payment of the last installment of earnest money or balance of purchase price (other than a purchase money note or deed of trust), and delivery of the deed from the seller to buyer were required by the terms of the recorded memorandum to have been performed, or the date of any recorded extension or renewal thereof signed by the parties and acknowledged before an officer authorized to take acknowledgements."

SECTION 3. G.S. 47-17.1 reads as rewritten:

"§ 47-17.1. Documents registered or ordered to be registered in certain counties to designate draftsman; exceptions.

The register of deeds of any county in North Carolina shall not accept for registration, nor shall any judge order registration pursuant to G.S. 47-14, of any deeds or deeds of trust, executed after January 1, 1980, unless the first page of the deeds or deeds of trust bears an entry showing the name of either the person or law firm who drafted the ~~instrument, except that papers or documents prepared in other states may be registered or ordered to be registered without having the name of either the person or law firm who drafted the instrument designated thereon.~~ instrument."

SECTION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law. Sections 2 and 3 of this act apply to all memoranda of contracts to purchase real estate recorded prior to and on or after the date this act becomes effective.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 17th day of June, 2011.

s/ Walter H. Dalton
President of the Senate

s/ Thom Tillis
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Beverly E. Perdue
Governor

Approved 12:09 p.m. this 27th day of June, 2011