AN ACT RELATING TO VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF SHERIFF OF CLEVELAND
COUNTY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 162-5.1, as amended by S.L. 2019-5, reads as rewritten:

"§ 162-5.1. Vacancy filled in certain counties; duties performed by coroner or chief deputy.

If any vacancy occurs in the office of sheriff, the coroner of the county shall execute all
process directed to the sheriff until the board shall elect a sheriff to supply the vacancy for the
residue of the term, who shall possess the same qualifications, enter into the same bond, and be
subject to removal, as the sheriff regularly elected. If the sheriff were elected as a nominee of a
political party, the board of commissioners shall consult the county executive committee of that
political party before filling the vacancy, and shall elect the person recommended by the county
executive committee of that party, if the party makes a recommendation within 30 days of the
occurrence of the vacancy. If the board should fail to fill such vacancy, the coroner shall continue
to discharge the duties of sheriff until it shall be filled.

In those counties where the office of coroner has been abolished, the chief deputy sheriff, or
if there is no chief deputy, then the senior deputy in years of service, shall perform all the duties
of the sheriff until the county commissioners appoint some person to fill the unexpired term. In
all counties the regular deputy sheriffs shall, during the interim of the vacancy, continue to
perform their duties with full authority.

This section shall apply only in the following counties: Alamance, Alleghany, Avery,
Beaufort, Brunswick, Buncombe, Cabarrus, Caldwell, Carteret, Cherokee, Clay, Cleveland,
Davidson, Davie, Edgecombe, Forsyth, Gaston, Graham, Guilford, Haywood, Henderson, Hyde,
Jackson, Lee, Lincoln, Madison, McDowell, Mecklenburg, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow,
Pender, Polk, Randolph, Richmond, Rockingham, Rutherford, Sampson, Stokes, Surry,
Transylvania, Wake, Washington, Wayne, and Yancey."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to vacancies
occurring on or after that date.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 28th day of August,
2019.

s/ Philip E. Berger
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

s/ Tim Moore
Speaker of the House of Representatives