

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2003**

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**HOUSE BILL 653\***

Short Title: Court Fee Changes.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representative Alexander.

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Referred to: Finance.

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March 25, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO INCREASE AND ADJUST FEES IN THE GENERAL COURT OF  
JUSTICE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-304(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) In every criminal case in the superior or district court, wherein the defendant is convicted, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or when costs are assessed against the prosecuting witness, the following costs shall be assessed and collected, except that when the judgment imposes an active prison sentence, costs shall be assessed and collected only when the judgment specifically so provides, and that no costs may be assessed when a case is dismissed.

(1) For each arrest or personal service of criminal process, including citations and subpoenas, the sum of five dollars (\$5.00), to be remitted to the county wherein the arrest was made or process was served, except that in those cases in which the arrest was made or process served by a law-enforcement officer employed by a municipality, the fee shall be paid to the municipality employing the officer.

(2) For the use of the courtroom and related judicial facilities, the sum of ~~twelve dollars (\$12.00)~~ seventeen dollars (\$17.00) in the district court, including cases before a magistrate, and the sum of ~~thirty dollars (\$30.00)~~ thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) in superior court, to be remitted to the county in which the judgment is rendered. In all cases where the judgment is rendered in facilities provided by a municipality, the facilities fee shall be paid to the municipality. Funds derived from the facilities fees shall be used exclusively by the county or municipality for providing, maintaining, and constructing adequate courtroom and related judicial facilities, including: adequate space and furniture for judges, district attorneys, public defenders and other personnel of the Office of Indigent Defense Services, magistrates, juries, and other

1 court related personnel; computer equipment, software, and supplies  
 2 for data sharing and automation; office space, furniture and vaults for  
 3 the clerk; jail and juvenile detention facilities; free parking for jurors;  
 4 and a law library (including books) if one has heretofore been  
 5 established or if the governing body hereafter decides to establish one.  
 6 In the event the funds derived from the facilities fees exceed what is  
 7 needed for these purposes, the county or municipality may, with the  
 8 approval of the Administrative Officer of the Courts as to the amount,  
 9 use any or all of the excess to retire outstanding indebtedness incurred  
 10 in the construction of the facilities, or to reimburse the county or  
 11 municipality for funds expended in constructing or renovating the  
 12 facilities (without incurring any indebtedness) within a period of two  
 13 years before or after the date a district court is established in such  
 14 county, or to supplement the operations of the General Court of Justice  
 15 in the county.

16 (3) For the retirement and insurance benefits of both State and local  
 17 government law-enforcement officers, the sum of seven dollars and  
 18 twenty-five cents (\$7.25), to be remitted to the State Treasurer. Fifty  
 19 cents (50¢) of this sum shall be administered as is provided in Article  
 20 12C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. Five dollars and  
 21 seventy-five cents (\$5.75) of this sum shall be administered as is  
 22 provided in Article 12E of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, with  
 23 one dollar and twenty-five cents (\$1.25) being administered in  
 24 accordance with the provisions of G.S. 143-166.50(e). One dollar  
 25 (\$1.00) of this sum shall be administered as is provided in Article 12F  
 26 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.

27 (3a) For the supplemental pension benefits of sheriffs, the sum of  
 28 seventy-five cents (75¢) to be remitted to the Department of Justice  
 29 and administered under the provisions of Article 12G of Chapter 143  
 30 of the General Statutes.

31 (4) For support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of seventy-five  
 32 dollars (\$75.00) in the district court, including cases before a  
 33 magistrate, and the sum of eighty-two dollars (\$82.00) in the superior  
 34 court, to be remitted to the State Treasurer. For a person convicted of a  
 35 felony in superior court who has made a first appearance in district  
 36 court, both the district court and superior court fees shall be assessed.  
 37 The State Treasurer shall remit ~~the sum of one dollar and five cents~~  
 38 ~~(\$1.05)~~ a portion of each fee collected under this ~~subdivision~~  
 39 subdivision, in an amount equal to that specified in the table below,  
 40 to the North Carolina State Bar for the provision of services described in  
 41 ~~G.S. 7A-474.4.~~ G.S. 7A-474.4:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>January 2002</u>	
<u>through 2002-2003</u>	<u>\$1.05</u>

1	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2.00</u>
2	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>3.00</u>
3	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>4.00</u>
4	<u>2006-2007 and after</u>	<u>5.00.</u>

- 5 (5) For using pretrial release services, the district or superior court judge  
6 shall, upon conviction, impose a fee of ~~fifteen dollars (\$15.00)~~ thirty  
7 dollars (\$30.00) to be remitted to the county providing the pretrial  
8 release services. This cost shall be assessed and collected only if the  
9 defendant had been accepted and released to the supervision of the  
10 agency providing the pretrial release services.
- 11 (6) For support of the General Court of Justice, for the issuance by the  
12 clerk of a report to the Division of Motor Vehicles pursuant to G.S.  
13 20-24.2, the sum of fifty dollars (\$50.00), to be remitted to the State  
14 Treasurer. Upon a showing to the court that the defendant failed to  
15 appear because of an error or omission of a judicial official, a  
16 prosecutor, or a law-enforcement officer, the court shall waive this fee.
- 17 (7) For the services of the State Bureau of Investigation laboratory  
18 facilities, the district or superior court judge shall, upon conviction,  
19 order payment of the sum of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) to be  
20 remitted to the Department of Justice for support of the State Bureau  
21 of Investigation. This cost shall be assessed only in cases in which, as  
22 part of the investigation leading to the defendant's conviction, the  
23 laboratories have performed DNA analysis of the crime, tests of bodily  
24 fluids of the defendant for the presence of alcohol or controlled  
25 substances, or analysis of any controlled substance possessed by the  
26 defendant or the defendant's agent. The court may waive or reduce the  
27 amount of the payment required by this subdivision upon a finding of  
28 just cause to grant such a waiver or reduction."

29 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 7A-305(a) reads as rewritten:

30 "(a) In every civil action in the superior or district court, except for actions  
31 brought under Chapter 50B of the General Statutes, the following costs shall be  
32 assessed:

- 33 (1) For the use of the courtroom and related judicial facilities, the sum of  
34 ~~twelve dollars (\$12.00) in cases heard~~ seventeen dollars (\$17.00) in the  
35 district court, including cases before a magistrate, and the sum of  
36 ~~sixteen dollars (\$16.00) in district and~~ thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) in  
37 the superior court, to be remitted to the county in which the judgment  
38 is rendered, except that in all cases in which the judgment is rendered  
39 in facilities provided by a municipality, the facilities fee shall be paid  
40 to the municipality. Funds derived from the facilities fees shall be used  
41 in the same manner, for the same purposes, and subject to the same  
42 restrictions, as facilities fees assessed in criminal actions.
- 43 (2) For support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of ~~sixty-nine~~  
44 ~~dollars (\$69.00)~~ eighty-two dollars (\$82.00) in the superior court, and

1 the sum of ~~fifty-four dollars (\$54.00)~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) in  
 2 the district court except that if the case is assigned to a magistrate the  
 3 sum shall be forty-three dollars (\$43.00). Sums collected under this  
 4 subdivision shall be remitted to the State Treasurer. The State  
 5 Treasurer shall remit ~~the sum of one dollar and five cents (\$1.05)~~ a  
 6 portion of each fee collected under this ~~subdivision~~ subdivision, in an  
 7 amount equal to that specified in the table below, to the North Carolina  
 8 State Bar for the provision of services described in ~~G.S. 7A-474.4.~~  
 9 G.S. 7A-474.4:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>January 2002</u>	
<u>through 2002-2003</u>	<u>\$1.05</u>
<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2.00</u>
<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>3.00</u>
<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>4.00</u>
<u>2006-2007 and after</u>	<u>5.00."</u>

17 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 7A-306(a) reads as rewritten:

18 "(a) In every special proceeding in the superior court, the following costs shall be  
 19 assessed:

- 20 (1) For the use of the courtroom and related judicial facilities, the sum of  
 21 ~~ten dollars (\$10.00)~~ seventeen dollars (\$17.00) to be remitted to the  
 22 county. Funds derived from the facilities fees shall be used in the same  
 23 manner, for the same purposes, and subject to the same restrictions, as  
 24 facilities fees assessed in criminal actions.
- 25 (2) For support of the General Court of Justice the sum of ~~thirty dollars~~  
 26 ~~(\$30.00).~~ seventy-five dollars (\$75.00). In addition, in proceedings  
 27 involving land, except boundary disputes, if the fair market value of  
 28 the land involved is over one hundred dollars (\$100.00), there shall be  
 29 an additional sum of thirty cents (30¢) per one hundred dollars  
 30 (\$100.00) of value, or major fraction thereof, not to exceed a  
 31 maximum additional sum of two hundred dollars (\$200.00). Fair  
 32 market value is determined by the sale price if there is a sale, the  
 33 appraiser's valuation if there is no sale, or the appraised value from the  
 34 property tax records if there is neither a sale nor an appraiser's  
 35 valuation. Sums collected under this subdivision shall be remitted to  
 36 the State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall remit ~~the sum of one~~  
 37 ~~dollar and five cents (\$1.05)~~ a portion of each ~~thirty dollar (\$30.00)~~  
 38 ~~seventy-five-dollar (\$75.00)~~ General Court of Justice fee collected  
 39 under this ~~subdivision~~ subdivision, in an amount equal to that specified  
 40 in the table below, to the North Carolina State Bar for the provision of  
 41 services described in ~~G.S. 7A-474.4.~~ G.S. 7A-474.4:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>January 2002</u>	
<u>through 2002-2003</u>	<u>\$1.05</u>

1	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2.00</u>
2	<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>3.00</u>
3	<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>4.00</u>
4	<u>2006-2007 and after</u>	<u>5.00."</u>

5 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 7A-307(a) reads as rewritten:

6 "(a) In the administration of the estates of decedents, minors, incompetents, of  
7 missing persons, and of trusts under wills and under powers of attorney, in trust  
8 proceedings under G.S. 36A-23.1, and in collections of personal property by affidavit,  
9 the following costs shall be assessed:

10 (1) For the use of the courtroom and related judicial facilities, the sum of  
11 ~~ten dollars (\$10.00)~~, seventeen dollars (\$17.00), to be remitted to the  
12 county. Funds derived from the facilities fees shall be used in the same  
13 manner, for the same purposes, and subject to the same restrictions, as  
14 facilities fees assessed in criminal actions.

15 (2) For support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of ~~thirty dollars~~  
16 ~~(\$30.00)~~, seventy-five dollars (\$75.00), plus an additional forty cents  
17 (40¢) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or major fraction thereof, of  
18 the gross estate, not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000). Gross  
19 estate shall include the fair market value of all personalty when  
20 received, and all proceeds from the sale of realty coming into the  
21 hands of the fiduciary, but shall not include the value of realty. In  
22 collections of personal property by affidavit, the fee based on the gross  
23 estate shall be computed from the information in the final affidavit of  
24 collection made pursuant to G.S. 28A-25-3 and shall be paid when that  
25 affidavit is filed. In all other cases, this fee shall be computed from the  
26 information reported in the inventory and shall be paid when the  
27 inventory is filed with the clerk. If additional gross estate, including  
28 income, comes into the hands of the fiduciary after the filing of the  
29 inventory, the fee for such additional value shall be assessed and paid  
30 upon the filing of any account or report disclosing such additional  
31 value. For each filing the minimum fee shall be fifteen dollars  
32 (\$15.00). Sums collected under this subdivision shall be remitted to the  
33 State Treasurer. The State Treasurer shall remit ~~the sum of one dollar~~  
34 ~~and five cents (\$1.05)~~ a portion of each ~~thirty dollar (\$30.00)~~  
35 ~~seventy-five-dollar (\$75.00)~~ General Court of Justice fee collected  
36 under this subdivision subdivision, in an amount equal to that specified  
37 in the table below, to the North Carolina State Bar for the provision of  
38 services described in ~~G.S. 7A-474.4.~~ G.S. 7A-474.4:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>January 2002</u>	
<u>through 2002-2003</u>	<u>\$1.05</u>
<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2.00</u>
<u>2004-2005</u>	<u>3.00</u>
<u>2005-2006</u>	<u>4.00</u>

2006-2007 and after 5.00.

- (2a) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, the fee of forty cents (40¢) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or major fraction, of the gross estate, not to exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000), shall not be assessed on personalty received by a trust under a will when the estate of the decedent was administered under Chapters 28 or 28A of the General Statutes. Instead, a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00) shall be assessed on the filing of each annual and final account.
- (2b) Notwithstanding subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, no costs shall be assessed when the estate is administered or settled pursuant to G.S. 28A-25-6.
- (2c) Notwithstanding subdivision (2) of this subsection, the fee of forty cents (40¢) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or major fraction, of the gross estate shall not be assessed on the gross estate of a trust that is the subject of a proceeding under G.S. 36A-23.1 if there is no requirement in the trust that accountings be filed with the clerk.
- (3) For probate of a will without qualification of a personal representative, the clerk shall assess a facilities fee as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection and shall assess for support of the General Court of Justice, the sum of twenty dollars (\$20.00)."

**SECTION 5.** G.S. 7A-308(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The following miscellaneous fees and commissions shall be collected by the clerk of superior court and remitted to the State for the support of the General Court of Justice:

- (1) Foreclosure under power of sale in deed of trust or mortgage..... \$60.00  
If the property is sold under the power of sale, an additional amount will be charged, determined by the following formula: forty-five cents (.45) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00), or major fraction thereof, of the final sale price. If the amount determined by the formula is less than ten dollars (\$10.00), a minimum ten dollar (\$10.00) fee will be collected. If the amount determined by the formula is more than three hundred dollars (\$300.00), a maximum three hundred dollar (\$300.00) fee will be collected.
- (2) Proceeding supplemental to execution..... 30.00
- (3) Confession of judgment ..... ~~22.50~~ 25.00
- (4) Taking a deposition ..... 10.00
- (5) Execution..... ~~22.50~~ 25.00
- (6) Notice of resumption of former name ..... ~~7.50~~ 8.00
- (7) Taking an acknowledgment or administering an oath, or both, with or without seal, each certificate (except that oaths of office shall be administered to public officials without charge)..... ~~\$1.50~~ 2.00
- (8) Bond, taking justification or approving..... ~~7.50~~ 8.00

1 (9) Certificate, under seal..... 3.00  
2 (10) Exemplification of records ..... ~~7.50~~ 8.00  
3 (11) Recording or docketing (including indexing) any document  
4 – first page .....6.00  
5 – each additional page or fraction thereof .....25  
6 (12) Preparation of copies  
7 – first page ..... ~~1.50~~ 2.00  
8 – each additional page or fraction thereof .....25  
9 (13) Preparation and docketing of transcript of judgment ..... ~~7.50~~ 10.00  
10 (14) Substitution of trustee in deed of trust ..... ~~7.50~~ 10.00  
11 (15) Execution of passport application – the amount allowed by  
12 federal law  
13 (16) Repealed by Session Laws 1989, c. 783, s. 2.  
14 (17) Criminal record search except if search is requested by an  
15 agency of the State or any of its political subdivisions or  
16 by an agency of the United States or by a petitioner in a  
17 proceeding under Article 2 of General Statutes Chapter 20 .... ~~7.50~~ 8.00  
18 (18) Filing the affirmations, acknowledgments, agreements and  
19 resulting orders entered into under the provisions of G.S.  
20 110-132 and G.S. 110-133 .....6.00  
21 (19) Repealed by Session Laws 1989, c. 783, s. 3.  
22 (20) Filing a motion to assert a right of access under G.S. 1-72.1 .....30.00."

23 **SECTION 6.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2003, and  
24 applies to all costs assessed or collected on or after that date, except that in  
25 misdemeanor or infraction cases disposed of on or after that date by written appearance,  
26 waiver of trial or hearing, and plea of guilt or admission of responsibility pursuant to  
27 G.S. 7A-180(4) or G.S. 7A-273(2), in which the citation or other criminal process was  
28 issued before that date, the cost shall be the lesser of those specified in G.S. 7A-304(a),  
29 as amended by Section 1 of this act, or those specified in the notice portion of the  
30 defendant's or respondent's copy of the citation or other criminal process, if any costs  
31 are specified in that notice. The remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2003,  
32 and applies to fees assessed or collected on or after that date.