

1 **SECTION 4.** The North Carolina Rural Courts Commission, in cooperation with
2 the Department of Correction, shall study the effectiveness of the use of videoconferences for
3 these proceedings and report its findings and recommendations for expansion or modification
4 to the Chief Justice, the Secretary of Correction, the Chairs of the Senate and House
5 Appropriations Subcommittees on Justice and Public Safety, and the Chairs of the Senate and
6 House Appropriations Committees. The study shall address the costs of implementing
7 videoconferencing on a statewide basis for these purposes, as well as the cost savings obtained
8 through the use of such equipment, the quality of the transmissions, the frequency of use, and
9 any other relevant information the Commission deems appropriate. The report shall be
10 submitted no later than May 1, 2010. The Administrative Office of the Courts and the
11 Department of Correction may seek grant funds to offset any costs associated with the study
12 that cannot be provided by appropriations to those agencies.

13 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law.