



HOUSE BILL 663: Commodities Producer Protection

2013-2014 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Judiciary I	Date:	June 25, 2014
Introduced by:	Reps. Ramsey, Langdon, Waddell, Dixon	Prepared by:	Bill Patterson
Analysis of:	PCS to Third Edition H663-CSTG-87		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: The PCS completely rewrites the bill and would exempt from the statutory definition of "practice law" certain self-help legal written materials bearing a disclaimer that they are not a substitute for the advice of an attorney.

CURRENT LAW: For purposes of Chapter 84, which regulates the practice of law, the term "practice law" is defined under G.S. 84-2.1 as:

performing any legal service for any other person, firm or corporation, with or without compensation, specifically including the preparation or aiding in the preparation of deeds, mortgages, wills, trust instruments, inventories, accounts or reports of guardians, trustees, administrators or executors, or preparing or aiding in the preparation of any petitions or orders in any probate or court proceeding; abstracting or passing upon titles, the preparation and filing of petitions for use in any court, including administrative tribunals and other judicial or quasi-judicial bodies, or assisting by advice, counsel, or otherwise in any legal work; and to advise or give opinion upon the legal rights of any person, firm or corporation:

The definition of "practice law" under G.S. 84-2.1 current excludes "the drafting or writing of memoranda of understanding or other mediation summaries by mediators at community mediation centers authorized by G.S. 7A-38.5 or by mediators of employment-related matters for The University of North Carolina or a constituent institution, or for an agency, commission, or board of the State of North Carolina."

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS to House Bill 663 would amend G.S. 84-2.1 by additionally exempting the following from the definition of "practice law:"

the design, creation, assembly, completion, publication, distribution, display, or sale, including by means of an Internet Web site, of self-help legal written materials, books, documents, templates, forms, computer software, or similar products if the products clearly and conspicuously state that the products are not a substitute for the advice of an attorney.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would be effective when it becomes law.

