

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 40

Short Title: Summary Ejectment/Appeals. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Moore; Blackwood, Howard, and Neumann.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 4, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT REQUIRING THAT NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM A MAGISTRATE'S  
JUDGMENT IN A SUMMARY EJECTMENT PROCEEDING BE GIVEN WITHIN  
FIVE DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF JUDGMENT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-228 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 7A-228. New trial before magistrate; appeal for trial de novo; how appeal perfected; oral notice; dismissal.**

(a) The chief district court judge may authorize magistrates to hear motions to set aside an order or judgment pursuant to G.S. 1A-1, Rule 60(b)(1) and order a new trial before a magistrate. The exercise of the authority of the chief district court judge in allowing magistrates to hear Rule 60(b)(1) motions shall not be construed to limit the authority of the district court to hear motions pursuant to Rule 60(b)(1) through (6) of the Rules of Civil Procedure for relief from a judgment or order entered by a magistrate and, if granted, to order a new trial before a magistrate. After final disposition before the magistrate, the sole remedy for an aggrieved party is appeal for trial de novo before a district court judge or a jury. Notice of appeal may be given orally in open court upon announcement or after entry of judgment. If not announced in open court, written notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the clerk of superior court within 10 days after entry of ~~judgment~~judgment, except that in a summary ejectment proceeding under Article 3 of Chapter 42 of the General Statutes written notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the clerk of superior court within five days after entry of judgment. The appeal must be perfected in the manner set out in subsection (b). Upon announcement of the appeal in open court or upon receipt of the written notice of appeal, the appeal shall be noted upon the judgment. If the judgment was mailed to the parties, then the time computations for appeal of such judgment shall be pursuant to G.S. 1A-1, Rule 6.

(b) The appeal shall be perfected by (1) oral announcement of appeal in open court; or (2) by filing notice of appeal in the office of the clerk of superior court within five days after entry of judgment in a summary ejectment proceeding and within 10 days after entry of judgment~~judgment in all other proceedings~~, pursuant to subsection (a), and by serving a copy of the notice of appeal on all parties pursuant to G.S. 1A-1, Rule 5. Failure to pay the costs of court to appeal within 10 days after entry of judgment in a summary ejectment proceeding and within 20 days after entry of judgment in all other proceedings shall result in the automatic dismissal of the appeal. The failure to demand a trial by jury in district court by the appealing party before the time to perfect the appeal has expired is a waiver of the right thereto.

(b1) A person desiring to appeal as an indigent shall, within five days of entry of judgment by the magistrate in a summary ejectment proceeding and within 10 days of entry of judgment by the~~magistrate~~magistrate in all other proceedings, file an affidavit that he or she is



1 unable by reason of poverty to pay the costs of appeal. Within 10 days after entry of judgment  
2 in a summary ejection proceeding and within 20 days after entry of judgment, judgment in all  
3 other proceedings, a superior or district court judge, magistrate, or the clerk of the superior  
4 court may authorize a person to appeal to district court as an indigent if the person is unable to  
5 pay the costs of appeal. The clerk of superior court shall authorize a person to appeal as an  
6 indigent if the person files the required affidavit and meets one or more of the criteria listed in  
7 G.S. 1-110. A superior or district court judge, a magistrate, or the clerk of the superior court  
8 may authorize a person who does not meet any of the criteria listed in G.S. 1-110 to appeal as  
9 an indigent if the person cannot pay the costs of appeal.

10 The district court may dismiss an appeal and require the person filing the appeal to pay the  
11 court costs advanced if the allegations contained in the affidavit are determined to be untrue or  
12 if the court is satisfied that the action is frivolous or malicious. If the court dismisses the  
13 appeal, the court shall affirm the judgment of the magistrate.

14 (c) Whenever such appeal is docketed and is regularly set for trial, and the appellant  
15 fails to appear and prosecute his appeal, the presiding judge may have the appellant called and  
16 the appeal dismissed; and in such case the judgment of the magistrate shall be affirmed."

17 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.