

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE BILL 787**

Short Title: Public Defender Appointment Changes. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Kinnaird.

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Referred to: Judiciary I.

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March 25, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE SENIOR RESIDENT SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE TO  
2 CONSULT WITH THE CHIEF DISTRICT COURT JUDGE IN THE APPOINTMENT  
3 OF PUBLIC DEFENDERS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONFERENCE OF CHIEF  
4 DISTRICT COURT JUDGES.  
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6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 7A-498.7(b) reads as rewritten:

8 "(b) For each new term, and to fill any vacancy, public defenders shall be appointed  
9 from a list of not less than two and not more than three names nominated by written ballot of  
10 the attorneys resident in the defender district who are licensed to practice law in North  
11 Carolina. The balloting shall be conducted pursuant to rules adopted by the Commission on  
12 Indigent Defense Services. The appointment shall be made by the senior resident superior court  
13 judge of the superior court district or set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-44.1 that includes the  
14 county or counties of the defender district for which the public defender is being ~~appointed.~~  
15 appointed after consultation with the chief district court judge of the district court district that  
16 includes the county or counties of the defender district."

17 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to  
18 appointments of public defenders on or after that date.

