

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019**

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**SENATE BILL 840**

Short Title: Allow Clerks to Hear Traffic Cases Virtually. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senators Garrett and Robinson (Primary Sponsors).

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Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

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May 27, 2020

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO TEMPORARILY ALLOW CLERKS OF COURT TO HEAR MINOR TRAFFIC  
2 OFFENSES BY VIRTUAL HEARING DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the  
5 Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the North Carolina Conference of  
6 Clerks of Superior Court, shall (i) identify traffic offenses over which clerks of superior court  
7 may be given authority to preside, (ii) grant authority to clerks of superior court to hold in-person  
8 and remote hearings involving the identified traffic offenses, and (iii) provide software, laptops,  
9 and any other technological need to clerks of superior court to preside over remote proceedings  
10 in a manner that ensures the validity and integrity of the proceedings.

11 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Administrative  
12 Office of the Courts the sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in nonrecurring funds for the  
13 2020-2021 fiscal year to be used to implement the requirements of Section 1 of this act.

14 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2020, and expires March 1, 2021.  
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