

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1993**

**H**

**1**

**HOUSE BILL 706**

Short Title: Child Support Guideline COLA.

(Public)

---

Sponsors: Representatives R. Thompson; Bowman, Cummings, Easterling, Gottovi, Mitchell, and Russell.

---

Referred to: Judiciary II.

---

April 1, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT PRESUMPTIVE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED FOR  
2 DETERMINING CHILD SUPPORT AMOUNTS MAY INCLUDE COST-OF-  
3 LIVING ADJUSTMENTS.  
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 50-13.4(c1) reads as rewritten:

7 "(c1) Effective July 1, 1990, the Conference of Chief District Judges shall prescribe  
8 uniform statewide presumptive guidelines for the computation of child support  
9 obligations of each parent as provided in Chapter 50 or elsewhere in the General  
10 Statutes and shall develop criteria for determining when, in a particular case, application  
11 of the guidelines would be unjust or inappropriate. Prior to May 1, 1990 these  
12 guidelines and criteria shall be reported to the General Assembly by the Administrative  
13 Office of the Courts by delivering copies to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate  
14 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The purpose of the guidelines and  
15 criteria shall be to ensure that payments ordered for the support of a minor child are in  
16 such amount as to meet the reasonable needs of the child for health, education, and  
17 maintenance, having due regard to the estates, earnings, conditions, accustomed  
18 standard of living of the child and the parties, the child care and homemaker  
19 contributions of each party, and other facts of the particular case. The guidelines shall  
20 include a procedure for setting child support, if any, in a joint or shared custody  
21 arrangement which shall reflect the other statutory requirements herein.

22 Periodically, but at least once every four years, the Conference of Chief District  
23 Judges shall review the guidelines to determine whether their application results in

1 appropriate child support award amounts. The Conference may modify the guidelines  
2 accordingly. The Conference may establish periodic automatic cost-of-living  
3 adjustments to provide for increases in the child support amounts included in the  
4 guidelines. The Conference shall give the Department of Human Resources, the  
5 Administrative Office of the Courts, and the general public an opportunity to provide  
6 the Conference with information relevant to the development and review of the  
7 guidelines. Any modifications of the guidelines or criteria shall be reported to the  
8 General Assembly by the Administrative Office of the Courts before they become  
9 effective by delivering copies to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the  
10 Speaker of the House of Representatives. The guidelines, when adopted or modified,  
11 shall be provided to the Department of Human Resources and the Administrative Office  
12 of the Courts, which shall disseminate them to the public through local IV-D offices,  
13 clerks of court, and the media.

14 Until July 1, 1990, the advisory guidelines adopted by the Conference of Chief  
15 District Judges pursuant to this subsection as formerly written shall operate as  
16 presumptive guidelines and the factors adopted by the Conference of Chief District  
17 Judges pursuant to this subsection as formerly written shall constitute criteria for  
18 varying from the amount of support determined by the guidelines."

19 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.