

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 332

Short Title: Civil Procedure/Limitations/Land Surveyors. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Daniel (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 25, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY STATUTES OF LIMITATION AND REPOSE APPLICABLE TO  
3 ACTIONS BROUGHT AGAINST PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYORS.

4 Whereas, the General Assembly has provided through the enactment of G.S. 1-47(6)  
5 and G.S. 1-52(18) two limitations periods for actions brought against a registered land surveyor  
6 as defined in G.S. 89C-3(9) or a person acting under the surveyor's supervision and control for  
7 physical damage or for economic or monetary loss due to negligence or a deficiency in the  
8 performance of surveying or platting; and

9 Whereas, it was the intent of the General Assembly to establish a 3-year statute of  
10 limitation under G.S. 1-52(18) and a 10-year statute of repose under G.S. 1-47(6) for such  
11 actions; and

12 Whereas, the North Carolina courts have held that the limitations period under  
13 G.S. 1-47(6) is more specific and provides a longer period of time than the limitations period  
14 under G.S. 1-52(18); and, consequently, that the 10-year limitation under G.S. 1-47(6) applies to  
15 the exclusion of the 3-year limitation under G.S. 1-52(18); and

16 Whereas, such ruling by the North Carolina courts have rendered the 3-year limitation  
17 under G.S. 1-52(18) a nullity, contrary to the intent of the General Assembly, and

18 Whereas, the General Assembly wishes to amend the provisions of G.S. 1-47 and  
19 G.S. 1-52 to establish a 3-year statute of limitation and 10-year statute of repose for such causes  
20 of action; Now, therefore,

21 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

22 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 1-47 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 1-47. Ten years.**

24 Within ten years an action –

25 ...

- 26 (6) a. ~~Against any registered land surveyor as defined in G.S. 89C-3(9) or~~  
27 ~~any person acting under his supervision and control for physical~~  
28 ~~damage or for economic or monetary loss due to negligence or a~~  
29 ~~deficiency in the performance of surveying or platting, within 10 years~~  
30 ~~after the last act or omission giving rise to the cause of action.~~  
31 b. ~~For purposes of this subdivision, "surveying and platting" means~~  
32 ~~boundary surveys, topographical surveys, surveys of property lines,~~  
33 ~~and any other measurement or surveying of real property and the~~  
34 ~~consequent graphic representation thereof.~~  
35 c. ~~The limitation prescribed by this subdivision shall apply to the~~  
36 ~~exclusion of G.S. 1-15(c) and G.S. 1-52(16)."~~



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1           **SECTION 2.** G.S. 1-52(18) reads as rewritten:

2   "**§ 1-52. Three years.**

3       Within three years an action –

4           ...

5       (18) Against any ~~registered professional~~ land surveyor as defined in G.S. 89C-3(9)  
6       or any person acting under ~~his~~ the surveyor's supervision and control for  
7       physical damage or economic or monetary loss due to negligence or a  
8       deficiency in the performance of surveying or ~~platting as defined in~~  
9       G.S. 1-47(6). platting. A cause of action under this subdivision shall be  
10       deemed to accrue at the time of the occurrence of the last act of the defendant  
11       in the performance of the surveying or platting giving rise to the cause of  
12       action; provided that, in no event shall a cause of action commence more than  
13       10 years from the specific last act giving rise to the cause of action. For  
14       purposes of this subdivision, "surveying and platting" means boundary  
15       surveys, topographical surveys, surveys of property lines, and any other  
16       measurement or surveying of real property and the consequent graphic  
17       representation thereof."

18       **SECTION 3.** If any section or provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or  
19       invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part other than  
20       the part declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

21       **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to actions filed,  
22       arising, or pending on or after that date. For purposes of this section, an action is pending for a  
23       plaintiff if there has been no final disposition with prejudice and mandate issued against that  
24       plaintiff issued by the highest court of competent jurisdiction where the claim was timely filed  
25       or appealed as to all the plaintiff's claims for relief to which this act otherwise applies.