

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H.B. 212
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10085-MU-26

Short Title: Condemnation/Service on Spouses Not Required. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Blust.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IS NOT
3 REQUIRED TO SERVE OR JOIN SPOUSES OF PROPERTY OWNERS IN
4 CONDEMNATION ACTIONS AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 136-103 reads as rewritten:

7 **"§ 136-103. Institution of action and deposit.**

8 (a) In case condemnation ~~shall become necessary~~ becomes necessary, the Department of
9 Transportation shall institute a civil action by filing in the superior court of any county in which
10 the land is located a complaint and a declaration of taking declaring that ~~such land, easement, or~~
11 ~~interest therein~~ the land or an easement or interest in the land is thereby taken for the use of the
12 ~~Department of Transportation~~ Department. The Department is not required to serve or join
13 spouses of persons with an interest in the land unless the spouse also has an interest in the land
14 other than the possibility of a future election under G.S. 29-30.

15 (b) ~~Said~~ The declaration shall contain or have attached ~~thereto~~ to it the following:

- 16 (1) A statement of the authority under which and the public use for which ~~said the~~
17 land is taken.
- 18 (2) A description of the entire tract or tracts affected by ~~said the~~ taking sufficient
19 for the identification ~~thereof~~ of it.
- 20 (3) A statement of the estate or interest in ~~said the~~ land taken for public use and a
21 description of the area taken sufficient for the identification ~~thereof~~ of it.
- 22 (4) The names and addresses of those persons ~~who that~~ the Department of
23 ~~Transportation~~ is informed and believes may have or claim to have an interest
24 in ~~said lands, the land~~, so far as ~~the same can by reasonable diligence be~~
25 ~~ascertained and if any such can be~~ ascertained by reasonable diligence. The
26 Department shall state whether any persons are infants, non compos mentis,
27 or under any other disability, or their whereabouts or names unknown, it must
28 be so stated if any person's whereabouts or name is unknown. The Department
29 is not required to include the names and addresses of persons whose only
30 interest in the land is the possibility of a future election under G.S. 29-30.
- 31 (5) A statement of the sum of money estimated by ~~said the~~ Department of
32 ~~Transportation~~ to be just compensation for ~~said the~~ taking.

33 (c) ~~Said~~ The complaint shall contain or have attached ~~thereto~~ to it the following:

- 34 (1) ~~A statement of the authority under which and the public use for which said~~
35 ~~land is taken~~. The information described in subdivisions (b)(1) through (b)(4)
36 of this section.



- 1 (2) ~~A description of the entire tract or tracts affected by said taking sufficient for~~
2 ~~the identification thereof.~~
- 3 (3) ~~A statement of the estate or interest in said land taken for public use and a~~
4 ~~description of the area taken sufficient for the identification thereof.~~
- 5 (4) ~~The names and addresses of those persons who the Department of~~
6 ~~Transportation is informed and believes may have or claim to have an interest~~
7 ~~in said lands, so far as the same can by reasonable diligence be ascertained~~
8 ~~and if any such persons are infants, non compos mentis, under any other~~
9 ~~disability, or their whereabouts or names unknown, it must be so stated.~~
- 10 (5) ~~A statement as to such any liens or other encumbrances as that the Department~~
11 ~~of Transportation is informed and believes are encumbrances upon said real~~
12 ~~estate the land and can by reasonable diligence be ascertained. be ascertained~~
13 ~~by reasonable diligence.~~
- 14 (6) ~~A prayer that there be a determination of just compensation in accordance with~~
15 ~~the provisions of this Article.~~

16 (d) ~~The filing of said the complaint and said the declaration of taking shall be~~
17 ~~accompanied by the a deposit of the sum of money estimated by said the Department of~~
18 ~~Transportation to be just compensation for said taking and upon the taking. Upon the filing of~~
19 ~~said complaint and said declaration of taking and deposit of said sum, the complaint, declaration,~~
20 ~~and deposit, summons shall be issued and together with a copy of said complaint and said~~
21 ~~declaration of taking and notice of the deposit the complaint, declaration, and notice of deposit~~
22 ~~shall be served upon the person named therein in the manner now provided for the service of~~
23 ~~process in civil actions. persons named in the complaint in accordance with G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4.~~
24 ~~The Department of Transportation may amend the complaint and declaration of taking and may~~
25 ~~increase the amount of its deposit with the court at any time while the proceeding is pending, and~~
26 ~~the owner shall have a person named in the complaint has the same rights of withdrawal of this~~
27 ~~additional amount as set forth in G.S. 136-105 of this Chapter. G.S. 136-105."~~

28 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 29-30 reads as rewritten:

29 "**§ 29-30. Election of surviving spouse to take life interest in lieu of intestate share provided.**

30 (a) Except as provided in this subsection, in lieu of the intestate share provided in
31 G.S. 29-14 or G.S. 29-21, or of the elective share provided in G.S. 30-3.1, the surviving spouse
32 of an intestate or the surviving spouse who has petitioned for an elective share is entitled to take
33 as the surviving spouse's intestate share or elective share a life estate in one third in value of all
34 the real estate of which the deceased spouse was seised and possessed of an estate of inheritance
35 at any time during ~~coverture. the marriage.~~ The surviving spouse is not entitled to take a life
36 estate in any of the following circumstances:

- 37 ...
- 38 (3c) Any real estate taken by the Department of Transportation in a condemnation
39 action initiated before the deceased spouse's death.
- 40 "

41 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025, and applies to
42 condemnation actions initiated on or after that date.