



CHAPTER 7A
ARTICLE 13 - CREATION AND ORGANIZATION OF THE DISTRICT COURT DIVISION

N.C.G.S. § 7A-133.

Numbers of judges by districts; numbers of magistrates and additional seats of court, by counties.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2024-1, s. 5.1(a) — seventieth act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 03:28 UTC	8eb6b650548d9efce6bf7e54 - d65a061ad6ce9e5094207a04 - 77b40eab8fd83da9

§ 7A-133(a) Each district court district shall have the numbers of judges as set forth in the following table:

DistrictJudgesCounty

15Camden

Chowan

Currituck

Dare

Gates

Pasquotank

Perquimans

24Beaufort

Hyde

Martin

Tyrrell

Washington

36Pitt

46Carteret

Craven

Pamlico

510Duplin

Jones

Onslow

Sampson

69New Hanover

Pender

74Bertie

Halifax

Hertford

Northampton

87Edgecombe

Nash

Wilson

96Greene

Lenoir

Wayne

10A3(part of Wake see subsection

§ 7A-133(b))

10B3(part of Wake see subsection

§ 7A-133(b))

10C3(part of Wake see subsection

§ 7A-133(b))
10D5(part of Wake see subsection

§ 7A-133(b))
10E3(part of Wake see subsection

§ 7A-133(b))
10F3(part of Wake see subsection

§ 7A-133(b))
11A5Franklin
Granville
(part of Vance see subsection

§ 7A-133(b))
Person
11B2Warren
(part of Vance see subsection

§ 7A-133(b))
1211Harnett
Johnston
Lee
1410Cumberland
157Bladen
Brunswick
Columbus
167Durham

175Alamance

185Chatham

Orange

206Robeson

214Anson

Richmond

Scotland

224Caswell

Rockingham

234Stokes

Surry

2414Guilford

256Cabarrus

2621Mecklenburg

275Rowan

283Montgomery, Stanly

295Hoke, Moore

305Union

3111Forsyth

326Alexander

Iredell

336Davidson

Davie

345Alleghany

Ashe

Wilkes

Yadkin

354Avery

Madison

Mitchell

Watauga

Yancey

3610Burke

Caldwell

Catawba

375Randolph

387Gaston

396Cleveland

Lincoln

407Buncombe

414McDowell

Rutherford

425Henderson

Polk

Transylvania

437Cherokee

Clay

Graham

Haywood

Jackson

Macon

Swain.

§ 7A-133(b)

For district court districts of less than a whole county, or with part or all of one county with part of another, the composition of the district is as follows:

- (1) District Court District 11A consists of Person, Franklin and Granville Counties and the remainder of Vance County not in District Court District 11B.
- (2) District Court District 11B consists of Warren County and VTD EH1, VTD MIDD, VTD NH1, VTD NH2, VTD TWNS, VTD WMSB of Vance County.
- (3) Repealed by Session Laws 2021-180, s. 16.7(b), effective January 1, 2025.
- (4) Repealed by Session Laws 2021-180, s. 16.7(b), effective January 1, 2025.
- (5) District 10A: Wake County: VTD 01-42, VTD 01-47, VTD 02-01, VTD 02-02, VTD 02-03, VTD 02-04, VTD 02-05, VTD 02-06, VTD 07-02, VTD 07-06, VTD 07-07, VTD 08-04, VTD 08-05, VTD 08-07, VTD 09-01, VTD 09-03, VTD 10-01, VTD 13-10, VTD 13-11, VTD 14-01, VTD 14-02, VTD 19-03, VTD 19-04, VTD 19-05, VTD 19-06, VTD 19-07, VTD 19-09, VTD 19-10, VTD 19-11, VTD 19-12.
- (6) District 10B: Wake County: VTD 09-02, VTD 10-02, VTD 10-03, VTD 10-04, VTD 13-01, VTD 13-07, VTD 13-08, VTD 13-09, VTD 16-08, VTD 17-02, VTD 17-03, VTD 17-04, VTD 17-06, VTD 17-07, VTD 17-08, VTD 17-09, VTD 17-11, VTD 19-16, VTD 19-17.
- (7) District 10C: Wake County: VTD 01-04, VTD 01-09, VTD 01-10, VTD 01-12, VTD 01-13, VTD 01-14, VTD 01-15, VTD 01-17, VTD 01-18, VTD 01-28, VTD 01-30, VTD 01-34, VTD 01-36, VTD 01-37, VTD 01-38, VTD 01-39, VTD 01-43, VTD 01-44, VTD 01-45, VTD 01-46, VTD 01-51, VTD 07-03, VTD 07-04, VTD 07-05, VTD 07-09, VTD 07-11, VTD 07-12, VTD 07-13, VTD 08-02, VTD 08-06, VTD 08-09, VTD 13-02, VTD 13-05, VTD 13-06, VTD 17-01, VTD 17-05, VTD 17-10.
- (8) District 10D: Wake County: VTD 01-01, VTD 01-02, VTD 01-03, VTD 01-05, VTD 01-06, VTD 01-07, VTD 01-11, VTD 01-16, VTD 01-29, VTD 01-33, VTD 01-49, VTD 04-01, VTD 04-02, VTD 04-03, VTD 04-04, VTD 04-05, VTD 04-06, VTD 04-07, VTD 04-08, VTD 04-09, VTD 04-10, VTD 04-11, VTD 04-12, VTD 04-14, VTD 04-15, VTD 04-16, VTD 04-17, VTD 04-18, VTD 04-20, VTD 04-21, VTD 05-05, VTD 06-05, VTD 06-07, VTD 07-01, VTD 07-10, VTD 08-03, VTD 08-08, VTD 08-10, VTD 08-11, VTD 11-01, VTD 11-02, VTD 12-01, VTD 12-02, VTD 12-04, VTD 12-05, VTD 12-06, VTD 12-07, VTD 12-09, VTD 15-01, VTD 15-02, VTD 15-03, VTD 15-04, VTD 16-01, VTD 16-05, VTD 16-09, VTD 18-02, VTD 18-03, VTD 18-05, VTD 20-03, VTD 20-05, VTD 20-09.

- (9) District 10E: Wake County: VTD 01-19, VTD 01-20, VTD 01-21, VTD 01-22, VTD 01-23, VTD 01-25, VTD 01-26, VTD 01-27, VTD 01-31, VTD 01-32, VTD 01-35, VTD 01-40, VTD 01-41, VTD 01-48, VTD 01-50, VTD 16-02, VTD 16-03, VTD 16-04, VTD 16-06, VTD 16-07, VTD 18-01, VTD 18-04, VTD 18-06, VTD 18-07, VTD 18-08.
- (10) District 10F: Wake County: VTD 03-00, VTD 04-13, VTD 04-19, VTD 05-01, VTD 05-03, VTD 05-04, VTD 05-06, VTD 06-01, VTD 06-04, VTD 06-06, VTD 12-08, VTD 20-01, VTD 20-02, VTD 20-04, VTD 20-06, VTD 20-08, VTD 20-10, VTD 20-11, VTD 20-12.
- (11) through (18) Repealed by Session Laws 2020-84, s. 2(a), effective January 1, 2021.

The names and boundaries of voting tabulation districts specified for Wake County, and Vance County in this section are as shown on the 2010 Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles. Precinct boundaries for other counties are those reported by the United States Bureau of the Census under Public Law 94-171 for the 1990 Census in the IVTD Version of the TIGER files.

§ 7A-133(b1)

The qualified voters of District Court District 12 shall elect all eight judges established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Johnston County may be candidates for five of the judgeships, only persons who reside in Harnett County may be candidates for two of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Lee County may be candidates for the remaining judgeship.

§ 7A-133(b2)

The qualified voters of District Court District 15 shall elect all seven judges established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Bladen County may be candidates for one of those judgeships, only persons who reside in Columbus County may be candidates for two of those judgeships, and only persons who reside in Brunswick County may be candidates for four of those judgeships. These district court judgeships shall be numbered and assigned for residency purposes as follows:

- (1) Seat number one, established for residents of Brunswick County by this section, shall be the seat currently held by Judge Barefoot.
- (2) Seat number two, established for residents of Brunswick County by this section, shall be the seat currently held by Judge Fairley.
- (3) Seat number three, established for residents of Brunswick County by this section, shall be the seat currently held by Judge Warren.

- (4) Seat number four, established for residents of Columbus County by this section, shall be the seat currently held by Judge Jolly.
- (5) Seat number five, established for residents of Columbus County by this section, shall be the seat currently held by Judge Tyler.
- (6) Seat number six, established for residents of Bladen County by this section, shall be the seat currently held by Judge Ussery.
- (7) Seat number seven, established for residents of Brunswick County by this section, shall be the seat created on January 1, 2023.

§ 7A-133(b3) The qualified voters of District Court District 32 shall elect all five judges established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Alexander County may be candidates for two of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Iredell County may be candidates for three of the judgeships.

§ 7A-133(b4) The qualified voters of District Court District 33 shall elect all six judges established for the District in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Davie County may be candidates for two of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Davidson County may be candidates for four of the judgeships.

§ 7A-133(b5) The qualified voters of District 21 shall elect all judges established for District 21 in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Anson County may be candidates for one of the judgeships, only persons who reside in Scotland County may be candidates for one of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Richmond County may be candidates for the remaining judgeships. In order to implement this section the following shall apply in order to transition from at large seats to residency requirements:

- (1) In 2020, and every four years thereafter, the district court judgeship requiring a resident of Anson County shall be elected, and a district court judgeship requiring a resident of Richmond County shall be elected.
- (2) In 2022, and every four years thereafter, the district court judgeship requiring a resident of Scotland County shall be elected, and a district court judgeship requiring a resident of Richmond County shall be elected.

§ 7A-133(b6) The qualified voters of District 28 shall elect all judges established for District 28 in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Montgomery County may

be candidates for one of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Stanly County may be candidates for the remaining judgeships.

§ 7A-133(b7)

Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the qualified voters of District 36 shall elect all judges established for District 36 in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Catawba County may be candidates for five of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Burke or Caldwell County may be candidates for the remaining judgeships. In order to implement this section the following shall apply in order to transition from at large seats to residency requirements:

- (1) Transition of seats; regular elections. - For any district court judgeship that is held by a resident of Burke or Caldwell Counties on July 1, 2018, at the next general election after July 1, 2018, that district court judgeship shall be filled only by a person who is a resident of Burke or Caldwell Counties. Until such time as three district court judgeships transition under subdivision (2) of this subsection, for any district court judgeship that is held by a resident of Catawba County on July 1, 2018, that district court judgeship shall, at the next general election after July 1, 2018, be filled only by a person who is a resident of Burke, Caldwell, or Catawba County.
- (2) Transition of seats; vacancies. - Upon each of the first three district court judgeship vacancies occurring in District Court District 36 after July 1, 2018, due to death, resignation, removal, or retirement of a person who is a resident of Catawba County holding a judgeship on July 1, 2018, that vacancy shall be filled according to law for the remainder of the unfilled term. At the next general election held for that district court judgeship, only persons who reside in Burke or Caldwell County may be candidates for that district court judgeship. Any primary associated with that general election for that district court judgeship after the completion of the term shall also be held accordingly, in accordance with this subsection.

- (3) Notification to State Board. - Upon each of the first three district court judgeship vacancies occurring after July 1, 2018, in District Court District 36 due to the death, resignation, removal, or retirement of a person who is a resident of Catawba County holding a judgeship on July 1, 2018, the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts shall provide written notice of the vacancy to the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement. During the filing period for that district court judgeship at the next general election held for that district court judgeship, the State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement shall ensure that only persons who reside in Burke or Caldwell County may file as candidates for that district court judgeship in accordance [with] this subsection.
- (4) Final transition. - If a total of three district court judgeships have not transferred under subdivision (2) of this subsection to be eligible to be held by only persons who are residents of Burke or Caldwell Counties by January 1, 2030, a sufficient number of district court judgeships to total three district court judgeships shall be transferred to be held by only persons who are residents of Burke or Caldwell Counties on January 1, 2031, and the 2030 elections shall be held accordingly.

§ 7A-133(b8) The qualified voters of District Court District 29 shall elect all judges established for District 29 in subsection (a) of this section, but only persons who reside in Hoke County may be candidates for one of the judgeships, and only persons who reside in Hoke or Moore County may be candidates for the remaining judgeships.

§ 7A-133(c) Each county shall have the numbers of magistrates and additional seats of district court, as set forth in the following table:

Magistrates	Additional
County	Min. Seats of Court
Alamance	12
Burlington	
Alexander	4
Alleghany	3
Anson	4
Ashe	4

Avery3
Beaufort4
Bertie3
Bladen4
Brunswick8
Buncombe15
Burke5.6
Cabarrus10Kannapolis
Caldwell6
Camden3
Carteret6
Caswell4
Catawba10Hickory
Chatham4Siler City
Cherokee4
Chowan3
Clay3
Cleveland8
Columbus5Tabor City
Craven8Havelock
Cumberland20
Currituck4
Dare5
Davidson9Thomasville
Davie4
Duplin5

Durham18

Edgecombe7Rocky Mount

Forsyth20Kernersville

Franklin4

Gaston17

Gates3

Graham3

Granville5

Greene3

Guilford32High Point

Halifax7Roanoke Rapids,

Scotland Neck

Harnett7Dunn

Haywood5Canton

Henderson7

Hertford4

Hoke4

Hyde3.5

Iredell9 Mooresville

Jackson4

Johnston10Benson,

Clayton,

Selma

Jones4

Lee5

Lenoir7La Grange

Lincoln6
Macon4
Madison3
Martin4
McDowell4
Mecklenburg38.5
Mitchell3
Montgomery4
Moore6Southern Pines
Nash9Rocky Mount
New Hanover14
Northampton3
Onslow11
Orange7Chapel Hill
Pamlico3
Pasquotank4
Pender5
Perquimans3
Person4
Pitt13Ayden
Farmville
Polk3
Randolph9Liberty
Richmond5Hamlet
Robeson12
Rockingham7Eden,

Madison,
Reidsville
Rowan⁹
Rutherford⁶
Sampson⁵
Scotland⁵
Stanly⁶
Stokes⁴
Surry⁵Mt. Airy
Swain³
Transylvania⁴
Tyrrell³
Union⁹
Vance⁶
Wake³²Apex,
Fuquay-Varina,
Wake Forest,
Wendell
Warren³
Washington³
Watauga⁴
Wayne⁹Mount Olive
Wilkes⁶
Wilson⁷
Yadkin⁴
Yancey³

§ 7A-133(c1)

Notwithstanding the minimum staffing numbers in subsection (c) of this section, the clerk of superior court in a county, with the written or emailed consent of the chief district court judge, may hire one deputy or assistant clerk in lieu of one of the magistrate positions allocated to that county. To provide accessibility for law enforcement and citizens, the clerk of superior court's office shall provide some of the services traditionally provided by the magistrates' office during some or all of the regular courthouse hours.

The Administrative Office of the Courts shall report by March 1 of each year to the chairs of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety regarding each of the following:

- (1) All deputy or assistant clerk positions previously filled pursuant to this subsection if the position remains filled pursuant to this subsection.
- (2) New deputy or assistant clerk positions filled pursuant to this subsection.

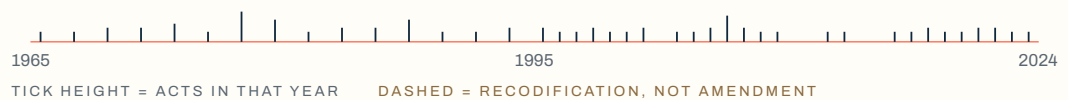
END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
70 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1965	c. 310, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1967	c. 691, s. 8	AMENDED
03	1969	c. 1190, s. 10	AMENDED
04	1969	c. 1254	AMENDED
05	1971	c. 377, s. 7	AMENDED
06	1971	cc. 727, 840, 841, 842, 843, 865, 866, 898	AMENDED
07	1973	cc. 132, 373, 483	AMENDED
08	1973	c. 838, s. 1	AMENDED

09	1973	c. 1376	AMENDED
10	1975	c. 956, ss. 8, 10	AMENDED
11	1977	cc. 121, 122	AMENDED
12	1977	c. 678, s. 2	AMENDED
13	1977	c. 947, s. 1	AMENDED
14	1977	c. 1130, ss. 4, 5	AMENDED
15	1977	2nd Sess., c. 1238, s. 3	AMENDED
16	1977	c. 1243, ss. 3, 6	AMENDED
17	1979	c. 465	AMENDED
18	1979	c. 838, ss. 117, 118	AMENDED
19	1979	c. 1072, ss. 2, 3	AMENDED
20	1979	2nd Sess., c. 1221, s. 2	AMENDED
21	1981	c. 964, s. 4	AMENDED
22	1983	c. 881, s. 5	AMENDED
23	1983	1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1109, s. 5	AMENDED
24	1985	c. 698, ss. 7(a), 12	AMENDED
25	1985	1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 1014, s. 222	AMENDED
26	1987	c. 738, ss. 126(a), 130(a)	AMENDED
27	1987	1987 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 1056, s. 4	AMENDED
28	1987	c. 1075	AMENDED
29	1987	c. 1100, s. 17.2(a)	AMENDED
30	1989	c. 795, s. 23(a), (d), (h)	AMENDED
31	1991	c. 742, ss. 11, 12(a)	AMENDED
32	1993	c. 321, ss. 200.4(e), 200.6(a), (d)	AMENDED
33	1993	1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 769, s. 24.9	AMENDED
34	1995	c. 507, s. 21.1(c)	AMENDED
35	1995	1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 589, s. 2(a)	AMENDED
36	1996	2nd Ex. Sess., c. 18, ss. 22.4, 22.7(a)	AMENDED
37	1997	S.L. 1997-443, ss. 18.12(a), 18.13	AMENDED
38	1998	S.L. 1998-212, ss. 16.11, 16.16(a)	AMENDED

39	1998	S.L. 1998-217, s. 67.3(a)	AMENDED
40	1999	S.L. 1999-237, ss. 17.4, 17.6(a)	AMENDED
41	2000	S.L. 2000-67, ss. 15.2, 15.3(a)	AMENDED
42	2001	S.L. 2001-400, s. 1	AMENDED
43	2001	S.L. 2001-424, ss. 22.16, 22.17(a)	AMENDED
44	2003	S.L. 2003-284, s. 13.8	AMENDED
45	2004	S.L. 2004-124, ss. 14.1(a), 14.6(e)	AMENDED
46	2005	S.L. 2005-276, s. 14.2(f), (f1)	AMENDED
47	2005	S.L. 2005-345, s. 27(a), (b)	AMENDED
48	2006	S.L. 2006-66, ss. 14.4(a), 14.5	AMENDED
49	2006	S.L. 2006-96, s. 1	AMENDED
50	2006	S.L. 2006-187, s. 7(a)	AMENDED
51	2006	S.L. 2006-221, s. 14(a)	AMENDED
52	2006	S.L. 2006-264, s. 93(a)	AMENDED
53	2007	S.L. 2007-323, ss. 14.13(a), (d), 14.25(e), (f)	AMENDED
54	2007	S.L. 2007-484, s. 25(a), 36	AMENDED
55	2008	S.L. 2008-107, s. 14.13(a)	AMENDED
56	2009	S.L. 2009-341, s. 1	AMENDED
57	2012	S.L. 2012-194, s. 1(c), (d)	AMENDED
58	2013	S.L. 2013-360, s. 18B.22(f)	AMENDED
59	2016	S.L. 2016-94, s. 19B.3(a)	AMENDED
60	2017	S.L. 2017-57, s. 18B.9(c)	AMENDED
61	2018	S.L. 2018-14, s. 2(a)	AMENDED
62	2018	S.L. 2018-121, s. 2(a)	AMENDED
63	2019	S.L. 2019-229, s. 2(a)	AMENDED
64	2020	S.L. 2020-84, s. 2(a)	AMENDED
65	2021	S.L. 2021-148, s. 1	AMENDED
66	2021	S.L. 2021-180, s. 16.7(a)-(c)	AMENDED
67	2022	S.L. 2022-6, s. 8.1	AMENDED
68	2022	S.L. 2022-74, s. 16.5	AMENDED

69	2023	S.L. 2023-134, ss. 16.2, 16.5(a)-(d), 16.26(b), (c), (g)	AMENDED
70	2024	S.L. 2024-1, s. 5.1(a)	AMENDED

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-133 (2024).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 7A-133(a) (2024).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1965, c. 310, s. 1; 1967, c. 691, s. 8; 1969, c. 1190, s. 10; c. 1254; 1971, c. 377, s. 7; cc. 727, 840, 841, 842, 843, 865, 866, 898; 1973, cc. 132, 373, 483; c. 838, s. 1; c. 1376; 1975, c. 956, ss. 8, 10; 1977, cc. 121, 122; c. 678, s. 2; c. 947, s. 1; c. 1130, ss. 4, 5; 1977, 2nd Sess., c. 1238, s. 3; c. 1243, ss. 3, 6; 1979, c. 465; c. 838, ss. 117, 118; c. 1072, ss. 2, 3; 1979, 2nd Sess., c. 1221, s. 2; 1981, c. 964, s. 4; 1983, c. 881, s. 5; 1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1109, s. 5; 1985, c. 698, ss. 7(a), 12; 1985 (Reg. Sess., 1986), c. 1014, s. 222; 1987, c. 738, ss. 126(a), 130(a); 1987 (Reg. Sess., 1988), c. 1056, s. 4; c. 1075; c. 1100, s. 17.2(a); 1989, c. 795, s. 23(a), (d), (h); 1991, c. 742, ss. 11, 12(a); 1993, c. 321, ss. 200.4(e), 200.6(a), (d); 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 769, s. 24.9; 1995, c. 507, s. 21.1(c); 1995 (Reg. Sess., 1996), c. 589, s. 2(a); 1996, 2nd Ex. Sess., c. 18, ss. 22.4, 22.7(a); 1997-443, ss. 18.12(a), 18.13; 1998-212, ss. 16.11, 16.16(a); 1998-217, s. 67.3(a); 1999-237, ss. 17.4, 17.6(a); 2000-67, ss. 15.2, 15.3(a); 2001-400, s. 1; 2001-424, ss. 22.16, 22.17(a); 2003-284, s. 13.8; 2004-124, ss. 14.1(a), 14.6(e); 2005-276, s. 14.2(f), (f1); 2005-345, s. 27(a), (b); 2006-66, ss. 14.4(a), 14.5; 2006-96, s. 1; 2006-187, s. 7(a); 2006-221, s. 14(a); 2006-264, s. 93(a); 2007-323, ss. 14.13(a), (d), 14.25(e), (f); 2007-484, s. 25(a), 36; 2008-107, s. 14.13(a); 2009-341, s. 1; 2012-194, s. 1(c), (d); 2013-360, s. 18B.22(f); 2016-94, s. 19B.3(a); 2017-57, s. 18B.9(c); 2018-14, s. 2(a); 2018-121, s. 2(a); 2019-229, s. 2(a); 2020-84, s. 2(a); 2021-148, s. 1; 2021-180, s. 16.7(a)-(c); 2022-6, s. 8.1; 2022-74, s. 16.5; 2023-134, ss. 16.2, 16.5(a)-(d), 16.26(b), (c), (g); 2024-1, s. 5.1(a).)

