

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 487

Sponsors: Representatives Colton, Easterling; H. Hunter, Rhodes, Bowman, Duncan, Kennedy, and S. Thompson.

Referred to: Rules.

March 8, 1989

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING AS THE OPINION OF THE NORTH
2 CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT THE CHARACTERIZATION OF
3 THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP IN NORTH CAROLINA AS "MASTER
4 AND SERVANT" IS INAPPROPRIATE AND DEGRADING.

5 Whereas, several legal texts, such as, West Publishing Company's North
6 Carolina Reporter and North Carolina Digest, and the Lawyers Co-operative Publishing
7 Company's Strong's North Carolina Index, continue to catalog the employment
8 relationship in North Carolina under the heading "master and servant"; and

9 Whereas, employers in North Carolina are no longer masters and employees
10 are no longer servants; and

11 Whereas, this characterization finds its roots in antiquated European law,
12 suggesting that the legal relationship between individuals is based upon their social
13 status; and

14 Whereas, the characterization of the relationship as "master and servant" is
15 degrading to both employers and employees; and

16 Whereas, the characterization's use has been fading rapidly in recent years;
17 and

18 Whereas, this characterization does not reflect the nature of the employment
19 relationship in North Carolina;

20 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

21 Section 1. It is the opinion of the General Assembly that the characterization
22 of the employment relationship in North Carolina is not accurately reflected by the

1 terms "master" and "servant" as is still used by several legal texts, because those terms
2 are degrading to both employers and employees, and no longer ought to be used in any
3 legal texts.

4 Sec. 2. This resolution is effective upon ratification.