

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

S

2

SENATE BILL 652  
Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 4/28/15

Short Title: Prohibit Re-Homing of an Adopted Minor Child.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 30, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE RE-HOMING OF AN ADOPTED MINOR CHILD AND  
3 MAKE CONFORMING STATUTORY CHANGES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 48-1-101 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

6 "**§ 48-1-101. Definitions.**

7 In this Chapter, the following definitions apply:

8 ...

9 (14a) "Re-homing" means the permanent transfer of physical custody of an  
10 adopted minor child by the child's parent, without a court order, to a person  
11 other than the child's stepparent, grandparent, adult sibling, aunt, uncle, first  
12 cousin, great-aunt, great-uncle, or great-grandparent. Compensation in the  
13 form of money, property, or other item of value is not required in order for  
14 re-homing to occur. Re-homing does not include placement of an adopted  
15 minor child with a prospective adoptive parent in accordance with Part 2 of  
16 Article 3 of this Chapter, relinquishment of an adopted minor child in  
17 accordance with Part 7 of Article 3 of this Chapter, or placement of an  
18 adopted minor child in accordance with the Interstate Compact on the  
19 Placement of Children under Article 38 of Chapter 7B of the General  
20 Statutes.

21 ...."

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 48-10-101(b) reads as rewritten:

23 "(b) No one other than a county department of social services, an adoption facilitator, or  
24 an agency licensed by the Department in this State may advertise in any periodical or  
25 newspaper, or by radio, television, or other public medium, that any person or entity will place  
26 or accept a child for adoption. For purposes of this section, "other public medium" includes the  
27 use of any computerized system, including electronic mail, Internet site, Internet profile, or any  
28 similar medium of communication provided via the Internet."

29 **SECTION 3.** Article 10 of Chapter 48 of the General Statutes is amended by  
30 adding a new section to read:

31 "**§ 48-10-106. Re-homing of an adopted minor child.**

32 (a) It shall be unlawful for an adoptive parent to:

33 (1) Advertise, recruit, or solicit or to aid, abet, conspire, or seek the assistance of  
34 another to advertise, recruit, or solicit for the re-homing of that parent's  
35 minor adopted child; or



1           (2) Knowingly and willfully respond to an advertisement or solicitation by  
2           another seeking to either take permanent physical custody of the adopted  
3           minor child or to facilitate the re-homing of the adopted minor child.

4           (b) The transfer and re-homing of an adopted minor child, as defined in  
5           G.S. 48-1-101(14a), shall be unlawful.

6           (c) It shall be unlawful for a person to advertise for, solicit, recruit, transport, receive,  
7           or obtain or to facilitate, assist, or arrange for the transfer of an adopted minor child for the  
8           purpose of re-homing the minor child.

9           (d) A person who violates this section is guilty of a Class F felony.

10          (e) An adopted minor child whose parent has re-homed or attempted to re-home the  
11          minor child is a neglected juvenile as defined by G.S. 7B-101(15). The county department of  
12          social services shall file a petition and the court may place the minor child in the custody of a  
13          county department of social services or other such person as is in the best interests of the minor  
14          child.

15          (f) This section does not apply to:

16           (1) The temporary placement of a minor child by the adoptive parent for a  
17           specified period of time due to either the child's medical, mental health, or  
18           educational needs or the parent's inability to provide proper care or  
19           supervision for the minor child, which may be due to the parent's  
20           incarceration, military service, employment, medical treatment, or  
21           incapacity;

22           (2) A voluntary foster care placement of the minor child made between the  
23           minor child's parent and a county department of social services pursuant to  
24           G.S. 7B-910; or

25           (3) A change in custody made pursuant to a valid court order."

26          **SECTION 4.** G.S. 7B-101(15) reads as rewritten:

27          "**§ 7B-101. Definitions.**

28          As used in this Subchapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following  
29          words have the listed meanings:

30          ...

31          (15) Neglected juvenile. – A juvenile who does not receive proper care,  
32          supervision, or discipline from the juvenile's parent, guardian, custodian, or  
33          caretaker; or who has been abandoned; or who is not provided necessary  
34          medical care; or who is not provided necessary remedial care; or who lives  
35          in an environment injurious to the juvenile's welfare; or who has been  
36          re-homed as defined in G.S. 48-1-101(14a) or placed for care or adoption in  
37          violation of law. In determining whether a juvenile is a neglected juvenile, it  
38          is relevant whether that juvenile lives in a home where another juvenile has  
39          died as a result of suspected abuse or neglect or lives in a home where  
40          another juvenile has been subjected to abuse or neglect by an adult who  
41          regularly lives in the home."

42          **SECTION 5.** G.S. 7B-302(a) reads as rewritten:

43          "(a) When a report of abuse, neglect, or dependency is received, the director of the  
44          department of social services shall make a prompt and thorough assessment, using either a  
45          family assessment response or an investigative assessment response, in order to ascertain the  
46          facts of the case, the extent of the abuse or neglect, and the risk of harm to the juvenile, in order  
47          to determine whether protective services should be provided or the complaint filed as a petition.  
48          When the report alleges abuse, the director shall immediately, but no later than 24 hours after  
49          receipt of the report, initiate the assessment. When the report alleges neglect or dependency, the  
50          director shall initiate the assessment within 72 hours following receipt of the report. When the  
51          report alleges ~~abandonment~~, abandonment or re-homing, as defined in G.S. 48-1-101(14a), of a

1 juvenile, the director shall immediately initiate an assessment, take appropriate steps to assume  
2 temporary custody of the juvenile, and take appropriate steps to secure an order for nonsecure  
3 custody of the juvenile. The assessment and evaluation shall include a visit to the place where  
4 the juvenile resides, except when the report alleges abuse or neglect in a child care facility as  
5 defined in Article 7 of Chapter 110 of the General Statutes. When a report alleges abuse or  
6 neglect in a child care facility as defined in Article 7 of Chapter 110 of the General Statutes, a  
7 visit to the place where the juvenile resides is not required. When the report alleges  
8 abandonment, the assessment shall include a request from the director to law enforcement  
9 officials to investigate through the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons and other  
10 national and State resources whether the juvenile is a missing child."

11 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2015, and applies to  
12 offenses committed on or after that date.