

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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SENATE BILL 417

Short Title: Set Allowable State Bar Membership Fees. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Britt and Galey (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 1, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO SET THE MAXIMUM FEE THAT THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR MAY REQUIRE FOR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP, TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LATE FEE, TO REQUIRE MEMBERS TO PROVIDE A CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS TO THE STATE BAR, AND TO CODIFY THE EXEMPTION FOR ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY MEMBERS FROM ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 84-34 reads as rewritten:

"§ 84-34. **Membership fees and list of members.**

(a) Every active member of the North Carolina State Bar shall, prior to the first day of July of each year, pay to the secretary-treasurer an annual membership fee in an amount determined by the Council but not to exceed ~~three hundred dollars (\$300.00)~~, and every the following amounts each year:

- (1) 2022: \$300.00.
- (2) 2023 and 2024: 325.00.
- (3) 2025 and 2026: 350.00.
- (4) 2027 and 2028: 375.00.
- (5) 2029 and after: 400.00.

(b) Every member shall notify the secretary-treasurer of the member's correct mailing and email address. Any member who fails to pay the required dues by the last day of June of each year shall be subject to a late fee in an amount determined by the Council but not to exceed ~~thirty dollars (\$30.00)~~, fifty dollars (\$50.00). All dues for prior years shall be as were set forth in the General Statutes then in effect. The membership fee shall be regarded as a service charge for the maintenance of the several services authorized by this Article, and shall be in addition to all fees required in connection with admissions to practice, and in addition to all license taxes required by law. The fee shall not be ~~prorated. Provided, that no fee shall be required of an prorated or waived, except for the following:~~

- (1) An attorney licensed after this Article shall have gone into effect shall not be liable for dues until the first day of January of the calendar year following that in which the attorney was licensed; but this proviso shall not apply to attorneys from other states admitted on certificate.
- (2) A member serving in the Armed Forces, whether in a legal or nonlegal capacity, will be exempt from payment of dues for any year in which the member is on active duty in the military service.

(c) The fees shall be disbursed by the secretary-treasurer on the order of the Council. The secretary-treasurer shall annually, at a time and in a law magazine or daily newspaper to be



1 prescribed by the Council, publish an account of the financial transactions of the Council in a
2 form to be prescribed by it. The secretary-treasurer shall compile and keep currently correct from
3 the names and mailing addresses forwarded to the secretary-treasurer and from any other
4 available sources of information a list of members of the North Carolina State Bar and furnish to
5 the clerk of the superior court in each county, not later than the first day of October in each year,
6 a list showing the name and address of each attorney for that county who has not complied with
7 the provisions of this Article. The name of each of the active members who are in arrears in the
8 payment of membership fees shall be furnished to the presiding judge ~~at the next term of the~~
9 ~~superior court after the first day of October of each year,~~ by the clerk of the superior court of
10 each county wherein the member or members reside, and the court shall thereupon take action
11 that is necessary and proper. The names and addresses of attorneys so certified shall be kept
12 available to the public. The Secretary of Revenue is hereby directed to supply the
13 secretary-treasurer, from records of license tax payments, with any information for which the
14 secretary-treasurer may call in order to enable the secretary-treasurer to comply with this
15 requirement.

16 (d) The list submitted to several clerks of the superior court shall also be submitted to the
17 Council ~~at its October meeting of each year~~ and it shall take the action thereon that is necessary
18 and proper."

19 **SECTION 2.** The North Carolina State Bar may adopt temporary rules to implement
20 this act.

21 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2021.