

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005**

**S**

**1**

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 982**

---

Sponsors: Senators Cowell; Graham, Hunt, Malone, and Stevens.

---

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

---

March 24, 2005

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
2 COMMISSION STUDY THE ISSUE OF REDUCING THE WAITING PERIOD  
3 BEFORE WHICH CITIES MAY ORDER DWELLINGS DETERMINED UNFIT  
4 FOR HUMAN HABITATION TO BE REPAIRED OR DEMOLISHED.

5       Whereas, G.S. 160A-443 allows cities to order a dwelling to be repaired or  
6 vacated and closed, if the owner has vacated and closed such dwelling and kept such  
7 dwelling vacated and closed for a period of one year; and

8       Whereas, S.L. 2004-98 has reduced the waiting period for Winston-Salem  
9 and Reidsville to six months; and

10       Whereas, other municipalities are interested in a shorter waiting period; and

11       Whereas, vacant dilapidated buildings become a blight to the community, but  
12 that interest must be balanced with property rights and family interests; Now, therefore,  
13 Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring:

14       **SECTION 1.** The Legislative Research Commission is requested to study  
15 the issue of whether the waiting period in G.S. 160-443(5a) and (5b) should be reduced  
16 from one year to six months.

17       **SECTION 2.** The study requested by this act shall be reported to the 2005  
18 Regular Session of the General Assembly when it reconvenes in 2006.

19       **SECTION 3.** This resolution is effective upon ratification.