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HOUSE BILL 1134
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Short Title: Cleanup of Abandoned Manufactured Homes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 28, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY ENCOURAGING COUNTIES TO DEVELOP PLANS THAT PROVIDE FOR THE DECONSTRUCTION OF ABANDONED MANUFACTURED HOMES AND THE REMOVAL OF REUSABLE OR RECYCLABLE COMPONENTS, BY PROVIDING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF ABANDONED MANUFACTURED HOMES THAT ARE DETERMINED TO BE A NUISANCE, AND TO DESIGNATE THAT A PORTION OF THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND BE USED TO FUND THE DECONSTRUCTION AND REMOVAL OF ABANDONED MANUFACTURED HOMES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"Part 2F. Management of Abandoned Manufactured Homes.

"§ 130A-309.99A. Findings; purpose.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) The number of manufactured homes in North Carolina has risen dramatically as land has become scarce and the housing market has become more expensive.
- (2) Manufactured homes may be difficult and expensive to repair when they begin to deteriorate. Often consumers simply buy another manufactured home unit rather than refurbish a manufactured home that needs repair.
- (3) According to data obtained through the 2000 United States Census, there are more than 80,000 vacant manufactured homes in North Carolina, of which 40,000 are estimated to be permanently untended or in need of extensive repair.

- 1 (4) Abandoned manufactured homes create public health and
2 environmental problems and are a visual blight on the landscape of
3 North Carolina. Further, an abandoned manufactured home poses a fire
4 hazard, a safety hazard to unsupervised children, and is a potential
5 source of toxic or hazardous materials that may escape into the
6 environment. As a result, abandoned manufactured homes constitute a
7 nuisance.
- 8 (5) Most landfills will not accept intact manufactured homes due to their
9 bulky nature. In those instances where landfills do accept intact
10 manufactured homes for disposal, the cost of disposal can be
11 prohibitive for many manufactured homeowners. Landfill disposal
12 costs include tipping fees, the costs of transporting the obsolete
13 structures to the landfill, and the costs of removing any hazardous
14 materials, such as asbestos and other harmful chemicals.
- 15 (6) Many components of manufactured homes can be reused or recycled,
16 including windows, screens, doors, copper tubing, copper wiring,
17 aluminum, tin, steel, lumber, steel frames, pipes, countertops, cabinets,
18 and other appliances and fixtures. It is estimated that twenty-six
19 percent (26%) to thirty-eight percent (38%) of the components of a
20 manufactured home can be reused or recycled without extensive
21 manual labor.
- 22 (7) It is desirable to allow units of local government to manage the
23 disposal of abandoned manufactured homes for themselves and to
24 encourage regional approaches to the deconstruction of abandoned
25 manufactured homes, the removal of components from abandoned
26 manufactured homes that are reusable or recyclable, and the proper
27 disposal of the remainder, including mercury switches from
28 thermostats.
- 29 (8) It is in the State's best interest to encourage the reduction of the
30 volume of intact manufactured homes being disposed of at public
31 sanitary landfills, to encourage the deconstruction of abandoned
32 manufactured homes, the removal of components from abandoned
33 manufactured homes that are reusable or recyclable, and to encourage
34 the proper disposal of the remainder, including mercury switches from
35 thermostats.

36 (b) The purpose of this Part is to provide units of local government with the
37 authority, funding, and guidance needed to provide for the efficient and proper
38 identification, deconstruction, recycling, and disposal of abandoned manufactured
39 homes in this State.

40 **"§ 130A-309.99B. Definitions.**

41 The following definitions apply to this Part:

- 42 (1) 'Abandoned manufactured home' means a manufactured home or
43 mobile classroom that is both:
44 a. Vacant or in need of extensive repair.

1 b. An unreasonable danger to public health, safety, welfare, or the
2 environment.

3 (2) 'Intact' when used in connection with 'abandoned manufactured home'
4 means an abandoned manufactured home from which the wheels and
5 axles, white goods, and recyclable materials have not been removed.

6 (3) 'Manufactured home' is defined in G.S. 105-187.60.

7 (4) 'Responsible party' means any person or entity that possesses an
8 ownership interest in an abandoned manufactured home.

9 **"§ 130A-309.99C. Management of abandoned manufactured homes.**

10 (a) Plan. – Each county shall consider whether to implement a program for the
11 management of abandoned manufactured homes. If, after consideration, the county
12 decides not to implement a program, the county must state in the comprehensive solid
13 waste management plan that it is required to develop under G.S. 130A-309.09A(b) that
14 the county considered whether to implement a program for the management of
15 abandoned manufactured homes and decided not to do so. A county may, at any time,
16 reconsider its decision not to implement a program for the management of abandoned
17 manufactured homes. If the county decides to implement a program, the county shall
18 develop a written plan for the management of abandoned manufactured homes and
19 include the plan as a component of the comprehensive solid waste management plan it
20 is required to develop under G.S. 130A-309.09A(b). At a minimum, the plan shall
21 include:

22 (1) A method by which the county proposes to identify abandoned
23 manufactured homes in the county, including, without limitation, a
24 process by which manufactured homeowners or other responsible
25 parties may request designation of their home as an abandoned
26 manufactured home.

27 (2) A plan for the deconstruction of these abandoned manufactured
28 homes.

29 (3) A plan for the removal of the deconstructed components, including
30 mercury switches from thermostats, for reuse or recycling, as
31 appropriate.

32 (4) A plan for the proper disposal of abandoned manufactured homes that
33 are not deconstructed under subdivision (2) of this subsection.

34 (b) Authority to Contract. – A county may contract with another unit of local
35 government or a private entity in accordance with Article 15 of Chapter 153A of the
36 General Statutes to provide for the management of abandoned manufactured homes
37 within the county and the implementation of its plan under subsection (a) of this section.

38 (c) Fee Authority. – A unit of local government or a party that contracted with
39 the county under subsection (b) of this section may charge a disposal fee for the
40 disposal of any abandoned manufactured home at a landfill pursuant to this Part.

41 (d) An intact abandoned manufactured home shall not be disposed of in a
42 landfill.

43 **"§ 130A-309.99D. Process for the disposal of abandoned manufactured homes.**

1 (a) If a county adopts and implements a plan for the management of abandoned
2 manufactured homes pursuant to this Part, the county shall notify the responsible party
3 for each identified abandoned manufactured home in the county that the abandoned
4 manufactured home must be properly disposed of by that person within 90 days. The
5 notice shall be in writing and shall be served on the person as provided by Rule 4(j) of
6 the Rules of Civil Procedure, G.S. 1A-1. The notice shall disclose the basis for the
7 action and advise that a hearing will be held before a designated public officer at a place
8 within the county in which the manufactured home is located not less than 10 days nor
9 more than 30 days after the serving of the notice; that the responsible party shall be
10 given the right to file an answer to the order and to appear in person, or otherwise, and
11 give testimony at the place and time fixed in the notice; and that the rules of evidence
12 prevailing in courts of law or equity shall not be controlling in hearings before the
13 public officer.

14 (b) If, after notice and hearing, the public officer determines that the
15 manufactured home under consideration is abandoned, the officer shall state in writing
16 the officer's findings of fact in support of that determination, and the county shall order
17 the person to dispose of the abandoned manufactured home within 90 days of the
18 expiration of this period. If the responsible party fails to comply with this order, the
19 county shall take any action it deems reasonably necessary to dispose of the abandoned
20 manufactured home, including entering the property where the abandoned manufactured
21 home is located and arranging to have the abandoned manufactured home deconstructed
22 and disposed of in a manner consistent with the plan developed under
23 G.S. 130A-309.92(a). If the responsible party is not the owner of the property on which
24 the abandoned manufactured home is located, the county may order the property owner
25 to permit entry onto the owner's property by an appropriate party to permit the removal
26 and proper disposal of the abandoned manufactured home.

27 (d) This section does not apply to any of the following:

28 (1) A retail business premises where manufactured homes are sold.

29 (2) A solid waste disposal facility where no more than 10 manufactured
30 homes are stored at one time if all of the manufactured homes received
31 for storage are deconstructed or removed from the facility within one
32 year after receipt.

33 (e) This section does not change the existing authority of a county or a
34 municipality to enforce any existing laws or of any person to abate a nuisance.

35 **"§ 130A-309.99E. Grants to local governments.**

36 (a) The Department shall use funds from the Solid Waste Trust Fund established
37 by G.S. 130A-309.12 to:

38 (1) Provide grants to counties to reimburse their expenses for activities
39 under this Part.

40 (2) Provide technical assistance and support to counties to achieve the
41 purposes of this Part.

42 (3) Implement this Part, including costs associated with staffing, training,
43 submitting reports, and fulfilling program goals.

1 (b) Each county that requests a reimbursement grant from the Department shall
2 also submit to the Department a proposed budget specifying in detail the expenses it
3 expects to incur in a specified time period in connection with the activities under this
4 Part. The Department shall review each submitted budget and make modifications, if
5 necessary, in light of the availability of funds, the county's capacity to effectively and
6 efficiently manage the abatement of abandoned manufactured homes, and any other
7 factors that the Department reasonably determines are relevant. When the Department
8 and a county agree on the amount of the county's budget under this subsection, the
9 Department and the county shall execute an agreement that reflects this amount and that
10 specifies the time period covered by the agreement, and the Department shall reserve
11 funds for the county in the amount necessary to reimburse allowable costs. The amount
12 of a reimbursement grant shall be calculated in accordance with subsections (c) and (d)
13 of this section. A county shall not receive a reimbursement grant unless it has filed all
14 the annual reports it is required to submit under G.S. 130A-309.96.

15 (c) Reimbursement grants shall be made in accordance with the terms of the
16 grant agreement developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, but in any event,
17 all reimbursements shall be calculated on a per-unit basis and based on the actual cost of
18 such activities, not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each unit. For a county
19 designated as a development tier one or two area pursuant to G.S. 143B-437.08 where
20 the costs associated with the disposition of an abandoned manufactured home in a
21 manner consistent with this Part exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per unit, a county
22 may request a supplemental grant in an amount equal to fifty percent (50%) of the
23 amount in excess of one thousand dollars (\$1,000). The Department shall consider the
24 efficiency and effectiveness of the county program in making the supplemental grant,
25 and the county participation must be a cash match.

26 (d) A county shall use reimbursement grant funds only for operating expenses
27 that are directly related to the management of abandoned manufactured homes. If an
28 operating expense is partially related to the management of abandoned manufactured
29 homes, a county may use the reimbursement grant funds to finance the percentage of the
30 cost that equals the percentage of the expense that is directly related to the management
31 of abandoned manufactured homes.

32 **"§ 130A-309.99F. Authority to adopt ordinances.**

33 A county, or a unit of local government that is delegated authority to do so by the
34 county, may adopt ordinances it deems necessary in order to implement this Part.

35 **"§ 130A-309.99G. Reporting on the management of abandoned manufactured**
36 **homes.**

37 (a) On or before 1 August of each year, any county that receives a reimbursement
38 grant under G.S. 130A-309.94 shall submit a report to the Department that includes all
39 of the following information:

- 40 (1) The number of units and approximate tonnage of abandoned
41 manufactured homes removed, deconstructed, recycled, and disposed
42 of during the previous fiscal year.

- 1 (2) A detailed statement of the county's abandoned manufactured homes
2 account receipts and disbursements during the previous fiscal year that
3 sets out the source of all receipts and the purpose of all disbursements.
4 (3) The obligated and unobligated balances in the county's abandoned
5 manufactured homes account at the end of the fiscal year.
6 (4) An assessment of the county's progress in removing, deconstructing,
7 recycling, and disposing of abandoned manufactured homes consistent
8 with this Part.

9 (b) The Department shall include in its annual report to the Environmental
10 Review Commission under G.S. 130A-309.06(c) a description of the management of
11 abandoned manufactured homes in the State for the fiscal year ending the preceding 30
12 June. The description of the management of abandoned manufactured homes shall
13 include all of the following information:

- 14 (1) The cost to each county of managing its abandoned manufactured
15 home program during the reporting period.
16 (2) The beginning and ending balances of the Solid Waste Management
17 Trust Fund for the reporting period and a list of grants made from the
18 Fund for the period, itemized by county.
19 (3) A summary of the information contained in the reports submitted by
20 counties pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.
21 (4) Any other information the Department considers helpful in
22 understanding the problem of managing abandoned manufactured
23 homes in the State.

24 **"§ 130A-309.99H. Effect on local ordinances.**

25 This Part shall not be construed to limit the authority of counties under Article 18 of
26 Chapter 153A of the General Statutes or the authority of cities under Article 19 of
27 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes."

28 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-309.06(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision
29 to read:

- 30 "(14) A description of the activities related to the management of abandoned
31 manufactured homes in the State in accordance with
32 G.S. 130A-309.96, the beginning and ending balances in the Solid
33 Waste Management Trust Fund for the reporting period and the
34 amount of funds used, itemized by county, for grants made under Part
35 2E of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes."

36 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 130A-309.09A(b) is amended by adding a new
37 subdivision to read:

- 38 "(9) Include as a component a written plan for the management of
39 abandoned manufactured homes as required under
40 G.S. 130A-309.92(a)."

41 **SECTION 4.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall
42 annually use up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from the Solid Waste Management
43 Trust Fund established by G.S. 130A-309.12 in order to fund the cleanup of abandoned
44 mobile homes as provided in G.S. 130A-309.99E.

1 **SECTION 5.** A county designated as a development tier one or two area
2 pursuant to G.S. 143B-437.08 may, upon resolution by the Board of Commissioners of
3 their intent to (i) develop a plan for the management of abandoned manufactured homes
4 and (ii) implement the plan once developed, request a planning grant of up to two
5 thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) from the Solid Waste Management Trust Fund.
6 These funds shall be used by the county to prepare a plan as provided in
7 G.S. 130A-309.99C, as enacted by Section 1 of this act, and to identify abandoned
8 manufactured homes.

9 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective 1 March 2009 and expires 1
10 October 2023.