LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

LIEN LAWS STUDY COMMITTEE



REPORT TO THE

1995 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

1996 REGULAR SESSION

A LIMITED NUMBER OF COPIES OF THIS REPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY.

ROOMS 2126, 2226 STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27611 TELEPHONE: (919) 733-7778

OR

ROOM 500 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA 27603-5925 TELEPHONE: (919) 733-9390

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL i	
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION MEMBERSHIPii	
PREFACE	
COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS 2	:
FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS4	Ļ
APPENDICES	
RELEVANT PORTIONS OF CHAPTER 542 OF THE 1995 SESSION LAWS, THE STUDIES BILL	\ -1
MEMBERSHIP OF THE LRC COMMITTEE ON LIEN LAWS	3-1
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL I A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR LIEN RIGHTS FOR PERSONS WHO FABRICATE DIES, MOLDS, FORMS, OR PATTERNS AND WHO FABRICATE PRODUCTS FROM DIES, MOLDS, FORMS, OR PATTERNS AND A SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE BILL	C-1
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL II - A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT TO PROVIDE LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY FOR THE FURNISHING OF RENTAL EQUIPMENT AND A SECTION-RY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE BILL.) -1

	•	

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

STATE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

RALEIGH 27611



May 1, 1996

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 1995 GENERAL ASSEMBLY (REGULAR SESSION 1996):

The Legislative Research Commission herewith submits to you for your consideration its interim report on lien laws. The report was prepared by the Legislative Research Commission's Committee on Lien Laws pursuant to G.S. 120-30.17(1).

Respectfully submitted,

Harold V. Brubaker

Speaker of the House

Mare Basnight

President Pro Tempore

might

Cochairs Legislative Research Commission

1995-1996

LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

MEMBERSHIP

President Pro Tempore of the Senate Marc Basnight, Cochair

Senator Frank W. Ballance, Jr. Senator R. L. Martin Senator Henry McKoy Senator J. K. Sherron, Jr. Senator Ed N. Warren

Speaker of the House of Representatives Harold J. Brubaker, Cochair

Rep. Jerry C. Dockham Rep. Larry Linney

Rep. Edd Nye

Rep. Gregory J. Thompson

Rep. Constance K. Wilson

			•
·			

PREFACE

The Legislative Research Commission, established by Article 6B of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes, is the general purpose study group in the Legislative Branch of State Government. The Commission is Cochaired by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and has five additional members appointed by each house of the General Assembly. Among the commission's duties is that of making or causing to be made, upon the direction of the General Assembly "such studies of and investigations into governmental agencies and institutions and matters of public policy as will aid the General Assembly in performing its duties in the most efficient and effective manner" (G.S. 120-30.17(1)).

The Legislative Research Commission, prompted by actions during the 1995 Session, has undertaken studies of numerous subjects. These studies were grouped into broad categories and each member of the Commission was given responsibility for one category of study. The Cochairs of the Legislative Research Commission, under the authority of G.S 120-30.10(b) and (c), appointed committees consisting of members of the General Assembly and the public to conduct the studies. Cochairs, one from each house of the General Assembly, were designated for each committee.

The study of Lien Laws was authorized by Subdivisions (15) and (16) of Section 2.1 of Part II of Chapter 542 of the 1995 Session Laws. Appendix A. Part II of Chapter 542 would allow studies authorized by that Part for the Legislative Research Commission to consider Senate Bill 434 and House Bill 617 in determining the nature, scope, and aspects of the study.

The Legislative Research Commission authorized this study in the fall of 1995 under the authority of G.S. 120-30.17(1) and grouped this study in its Property Issues Grouping under the direction of Representative Larry R. Linney.

The Committee was chaired by Representative William E. McMahan and Senator R. C. Soles, Jr. The full membership of the Committee is listed in Appendix B of this report. A Committee notebook containing the Committee minutes and all information presented to the Committee is filed in the Legislative Library.

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Legislative Research Commission's Lien Laws Study Committee met three times before the 1996 Regular Session of the 1995 General Assembly.

The first meeting of the Committee took place on February 15, 1996. Committee Counsel, Steven Rose, reviewed the charge to the Committee. He presented a budget to the Committee, which was adopted.

The Committee Counsel also reviewed the reporting dates for Legislative Research Commission Committees. Because of the time remaining for the report to the 1996 Session, and because the parties concerned with the major rewrite of the lien laws, as contained in Senate Bill 434, were unable to come to an agreement on the rewrite, it was determined that the Committee would focus on the Mold Lien Act, as proposed in House Bill 617, and on the question of amending the Construction Lien Law Act to clarify that people who rent equipment to contractors and subcontractors for use on construction jobs are entitled to a lien.

The Committee began a review of the Mold Lien Act, House Bill 617. This would allow persons who fabricate dies, molds, forms, or patterns, or who fabricate products from those items, for another, to have a lien on the mold, die, pattern, or form to secure payment of the unpaid contract price from the owner. These liens would not take priority over a previously perfected security interest. It was pointed out that these are possessory liens, that is, they exist for so long as the lienor retains possession of the item against which the lien is claimed.

The Committee heard from Rudy Underwood, Director of Governmental Affairs in the Southern Region for the American Plastics Council. He explained the use of molds in the manufacture of plastic components, and explained the need of those in the industry to have some degree of protection in collection of obligations that are due them.

After a thorough discussion by the Committee, the Committee adopted a recommendation that a Mold Lien Act, as set forth in Appendix C, be recommended to the 1996 Session of the General Assembly.

The second meeting of the Committee took place on March 14, 1996. The focus of this meeting was a discussion of whether lien rights should be extended to those who rent equipment to contractors and subcontractors performing improvements on real property.

Committee Counsel, Steven Rose, explained to the Committee that until the North Carolina Court of Appeals decision in Southeastern Steel Erectors, Inc. v. INCO, Inc., 108 N.C.App. 429 (1993), many people in the business of

leasing equipment to contractors and subcontractors thought they had the right to a lien under the current statutes. The Court of Appeals said this was not so because the rental of construction equipment did not fit any of the descriptions of items for which liens are afforded under Article 2 of Chapter 44A of the General Statutes. Committee Counsel presented a draft of a bill which would amend Article 2 of Chapter 44A to extend lien rights to those who furnish rental equipment to an owner, to a contractor, or to a subcontractor, for the making of an improvement on real property.

After discussion, and some minor changes, the Committee voted that the bill set forth in Appendix D of this report be recommended to the 1996 Session of the Legislature.

The Committee also heard from attorney Leon Killian, representing the North Carolina Land Title Association. He expressed a continued interest in the legislation embodied in Senate Bill 434, which made other changes in the lien laws. He hoped that the interested parties would be able to get together on those changes so that further study could proceed after the 1996 Session.

The third, and final meeting before the 1996 Session, took place on April 10, 1996. The purpose of this meeting was to consider and adopt the Committee's report for transmittal to the Legislative Research Commission. A draft of the report had been sent to the Committee members in accordance with Rule 7(a) of the Legislative Research Commission rules. After discussion, the Committee voted to transmit this report to the Legislative Research Commission as the report of this Committee.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee finds that persons who fabricate molds, patterns, dies, and forms, and persons who manufacture objects from molds, dies, patterns and forms, need additional assurance of the ability to collect certain financial obligations due them. The Committee finds that the most appropriate way of extending this protection is through a possessory lien on those molds, dies, patterns and forms.

The Committee also finds that there is a need to protect the interests of those who rent equipment used in the improvement of real property by providing a lien in the same way a lien is provided to those who supply labor, materials, and professional or skilled services including architects, engineers, land surveyors, and landscape architects.

The Committee recommends that the legislation appearing in this report in Appendix C and Appendix D be recommended to, and adopted by, the 1995 General Assembly, 1996 Regular Session.

APPENDIX A

				•	
		•			

APPENDIX A

CHAPTER 542

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE STUDIES BY THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION, TO CREATE AND CONTINUE VARIOUS COMMISSIONS, TO DIRECT STATE AGENCIES AND LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS TO STUDY SPECIFIED ISSUES, TO MAKE VARIOUS STATUTORY CHANGES, AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO CHAPTER 507 OF THE 1995 SESSION LAWS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I.----TITLE

Section 1. This act shall be known as "The Studies Act of 1995".

PART II.----LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION

Sec. 2.1. The Legislative Research Commission may study the topics listed below. When applicable, the 1995 bill or resolution that originally proposed the issue or study and the name of the sponsor is listed. The Commission may consider the original bill or resolution in determining the nature, scope, and aspects of the study. The topics are:

- Lien laws (S.B. 434 Hartsell, Soles, and Cooper)
 - (16) Mold Lien Act (H.B. 617 McMahan) . . .
- Sec. 2.8. Committee Membership. For each Legislative Research Commission committee created during the 1995-96 biennium, the cochairs of the Legislative Research Commission shall appoint the committee membership.
- Sec. 2.9. Reporting Dates. For each of the topics the Legislative Research Commission decides to study under this act or pursuant to G.S. 120-30.17(1), the Commission may report its findings, together with any recommended legislation, to the 1996 Regular Session of the 1995 General Assembly, if approved by the cochairs, or the 1997 General Assembly, or both.
- Sec. 2.10. Bills and Resolution References. The listing of the original bill or resolution in this Part is for reference purposes only and shall not be deemed to have incorporated by reference any of the substantive provisions contained in the original bill or resolution.
- Sec. 2.11. Funding. From the funds available to the General Assembly, the Legislative Services Commission may allocate additional monies to fund the work of the Legislative Research Commission....

PART XXVI.----EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 26.1. This act is effective upon ratification.

APPENDIX B

		•	
•			
		•	

APPENDIX B

LIEN LAWS COMMITTEE **MEMBERSHIP** 1995 - 1996

LRC Member: Representative Larry R. Linney

PO Box 7628

Asheville, NC 28802

President Pro Tempore Appointments

Sen. R.C. Soles, Jr., Cochair PO Box 6 Tabor City, NC 28463 (910) 653-2015

Mr. Jim Boniface Freeman & White Architects 8001 Arrow Ridge Boulevard Charlotte, NC 28273

Sen. Fletcher L. Hartsell, Jr. PO Box 368 Concord, NC 28026-0368 (704) 786-5161

Sen. Hamilton C. Horton, Jr. 324 North Spring Street Winston-Salem, NC 27101 (910) 773-1324

Sen. Luther H. Jordan, Jr. PO Box 701 306 South 7th Street Wilmington, NC 28402 (910) 763-2441

Staff:

Mr. Steve Rose Mr. Walker Reagan Research Division (919) 733-2578

Speaker's Appointments

Rep. William E. McMahan, Cochair 5815 Westpark Drive Charlotte, NC 28217 (704) 561-3402

Rep. Daniel T. Blue PO Box 1730 Raleigh, NC 27602 (919) 833-1931

Rep. Charles F. Buchanan Route 1, Box 273 Green Mountain, NC 28740 (704) 688-3544

Rep. Jack Hunt PO Box 277 Lattimore, NC 28089 (704) 434-6853

Rep. W. Eugene McCombs PO Box 132 Faith, NC 28041 (704) 279-2128

Clerk:

Ms. Anna Kidd (919) 733-5935 (919) 847-3789

APPENDIX C

		•	
		garana.	
		*	

APPENDIX C LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL 1

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

D

96C-RLZ-001 THIS IS A DRAFT 28-MAR-96 17:41:30 ATTENTION: LINE NUMBERS MAY CHANGE AFTER ADOPTION

	Short Title: Mold Lien Act. (Public)
	Sponsors:
	Referred to:
1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR LIEN RIGHTS FOR PERSONS WHO FABRICATE DIES,
3	MOLDS, FORMS, OR PATTERNS AND WHO FABRICATE PRODUCTS FROM DIES,
4	MOLDS, FORMS, OR PATTERNS.
	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6	Section 1. G.S. 44A-2 reads as rewritten:
	"§ 44A-2. Persons entitled to lien on personal property.
8	
	treats, or improves personal property other than a motor vehicle
	in the ordinary course of his business pursuant to an express or
	implied contract with an owner or legal possessor of the personal
	property has a lien upon the property. The amount of the lien
	shall be the lesser of
14	(1) The reasonable charges for the services and
15	materials; or
16	(2) The contract price; or
17	(3) One hundred dollars (\$100.00) if the lienor has
18	dealt with a legal possessor who is not an owner. This lien shall have priority over perfected and unperfected
21	security interests. (b) Any person engaged in the business of operating a hotel,
	motel, or boardinghouse has a lien upon all baggage, vehicles and
<i>L. L</i>	moter, or poaruriduouse has a rien upon air baggage, venicies and

- 1 other personal property brought upon his premises by a guest or 2 boarder who is an owner thereof to the extent of reasonable 3 charges for the room, accommodations and other items or services 4 furnished at the request of the guest or boarder. This lien shall 5 not have priority over any security interest in the property 6 which is perfected at the time the guest or boarder brings the 7 property to said hotel, motel or boardinghouse.
- 8 (c) Any person engaged in the business of boarding animals has 9 a lien on the animals boarded for reasonable charges for such 10 boarding which are contracted for with an owner or legal 11 possessor of the animal. This lien shall have priority over 12 perfected and unperfected security interests.
- (d) Any person who repairs, services, tows, or stores motor vehicles in the ordinary course of his business pursuant to an express or implied contract with an owner or legal possessor of the motor vehicle has a lien upon the motor vehicle for reasonable charges for such repairs, servicing, towing, storing, or for the rental of one or more substitute vehicles provided during the repair, servicing, or storage. This lien shall have priority over perfected and unperfected security interests.
- Any lessor of nonresidential demised premises has a lien 22 on all furniture, furnishings, trade fixtures, equipment and 23 other personal property to which the tenant has legal title and 24 which remains on the demised premises if (i) the tenant has 25 vacated the premises for 21 or more days after the paid rental 26 period has expired, and (ii) the lessor has a lawful claim for 27 damages against the tenant. If the tenant has vacated the 28 premises for 21 or more days after the expiration of the paid 29 rental period, or if the lessor has received a judgment for 30 possession of the premises which is executable and the tenant has 31 vacated the premises, then all property remaining on the premises 32 may be removed and placed in storage. If the total value of all 33 property remaining on the premises is less than one hundred 34 dollars (\$100.00), then it shall be deemed abandoned five days 35 after the tenant has vacated the premises, and the lessor may 36 remove it and may donate it to any charitable institution or 37 organization. Provided, the lessor shall not have a lien if there 38 is an agreement between the lessor or his agent and the tenant 39 that the lessor shall not have a lien. This lien shall be for the 40 amount of any rents which were due the lessor at the time the 41 tenant vacated the premises and for the time, up to 60 days, from 42 the vacating of the premises to the date of sale; and for any 43 sums necessary to repair damages to the premises caused by the 44 tenant, normal wear and tear excepted; and for reasonable costs

Page 2 C-2 96C-RLZ-001

- 1 and expenses of sale. The lien created by this subsection shall 2 be enforced by sale at public sale pursuant to the provisions of 3 G.S. 44A-4(e). This lien shall not have priority over any 4 security interest in the property which is perfected at the time 5 the lessor acquires this lien.
- 6 (el) This Article shall not apply to liens created by storage 7 of personal property at a self-service storage facility.
- 8 (f) Any person who improves any textile goods in the ordinary 9 course of his business pursuant to an express or implied contract 10 with the owner or legal possessor of such goods shall have a lien 11 upon all goods of such owner or possessor in his possession for 12 improvement. The amount of such lien shall be for the entire 13 unpaid contracted charges owed such person for improvement of 14 said goods including any amount owed for improvement of goods, 15 the possession of which may have been relinquished, and such lien 16 shall have priority over perfected and unperfected security 17 interests. "Goods" as used herein includes any textile goods, 18 yarns or products of natural or man-made fibers or combination 19 thereof. "Improve" as used herein shall be construed to include 20 processing, fabricating or treating by throwing, spinning, 21 knitting, dyeing, finishing, fabricating or otherwise.
- 22 (g) Any person who fabricates, casts, or otherwise makes a
 23 die, mold, form, or pattern, or who uses a die, mold, form, or
 24 pattern to manufacture, assemble, or otherwise make a product
 25 pursuant to an express or implied contract with the owner of such
 26 die, mold, form, or pattern shall have a lien upon such die,
 27 mold, form, or pattern. The amount of the lien shall be for the
 28 entire unpaid contracted charges due from the owner for all
 29 products made with the die, mold, form, or pattern and for making
 30 the die, mold, form, or pattern. This lien shall not have
 31 priority over any security interest in the die, mold, form, or
 32 pattern which is perfected at the time the person acquires this
 33 lien."
- 34 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL 1

MOLD LIEN ACT

Section 1: This section amends G.S. 44A-2 which deals with possessory liens. It adds a new subsection (g) granting a possessory lien to persons who make dies, molds, forms, or patterns, or who use those items to make a product for another. The lien is against the die, mold, form, or pattern. The amount of the lien is for the unpaid contracted charges due for the making of the die, mold, form, or pattern, and the unpaid charges due for making whatever products are made from a die, mold, form, or pattern. The lien does not have priority over a previously perfected security interest.

Section 2: The act is effective upon ratification.

APPENDIX D

APPENDIX D LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL 2

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

D

96C-RLZ-003 THIS IS A DRAFT 25-MAR-96 12:15:09 ATTENTION: LINE NUMBERS MAY CHANGE AFTER ADOPTION

	Short Title: Rental Equip. Liens. ()
	Sponsors:
	Referred to:
1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO PROVIDE LIENS ON REAL PROPERTY FOR THE FURNISHING OF
3	RENTAL EQUIPMENT.
4	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
5	Section 1. G.S. 44A-7 reads as rewritten:
6	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
7	Unless the context otherwise requires in this Article:
8	(1) 'Improve' means to build, effect, alter, repair, or
9	demolish any improvement upon, connected with, or
10	on or beneath the surface of any real property, or
11	to excavate, clear, grade, fill or landscape any
12	real property, or to construct driveways and
13	private roadways, or to furnish materials,
14	including trees and shrubbery, for any of such purposes, or to perform any labor upon such
15 16	improvements, and shall also mean and include any
17	design or other professional or skilled services
18	furnished by architects, engineers, land surveyors
19	and landscape architects registered under Chapter
20	83A, 89A or 89C of the General Statutes.
21	and rental of equipment directly utilized on the
22	real property in making the improvement.

all any part 1 (2) 'Improvement' means or erection, structure, 2 building, demolition, excavation, clearing, grading, filling, 3 landscaping, including trees and shrubbery, 4 driveways, and private roadways, on real property. 5 An 'owner' is a person who has an interest in the 6 (3) real property improved and for whom an improvement 7 is made and who ordered the improvement to be made. 8 'Owner' includes successors in interest of the 9 owner and agents of the owner acting within their 10 authority. 11 'Real property' means the real estate that 12 (4)improved, including lands, leaseholds, tenements 13 improvements and hereditaments, and placed 14 thereon." 15 G.S. 44A-8 reads as rewritten: Sec. 2. 16 17 "§ 44A-8. Mechanics', laborers' and materialmen's lien; persons

18 entitled to lien. Any person who performs or furnishes labor or professional 20 design or surveying services or furnishes materials or furnishes 21 rental equipment pursuant to a contract, either express 22 implied, with the owner of real property for the making of an 23 improvement thereon shall, upon complying with the provisions of 24 this Article, have a lien on such real property to secure payment 25 of all debts owing for labor done or professional design or 26 surveying services or material furnished or equipment rented 27 pursuant to such contract."

Sec. 3. G.S. 44A-18 reads as rewritten: 29 "§ 44A-18. Grant of lien; subrogation; perfection. Upon compliance with this Article:

- A first tier subcontractor who furnished labor or (1)materials labor, materials, or rental equipment at the site of the improvement shall be entitled to a lien upon funds which are owed to the contractor with whom the first tier subcontractor dealt and which arise out of the improvement on which the furnished first tier subcontractor worked or materials.
- A second tier subcontractor who furnished labor or (2) materials labor, materials, or rental equipment at the site of the improvement shall be entitled to a lien upon funds which are owed to the first tier subcontractor with whom the second subcontractor dealt and which arise out of the

19

28

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42 43

44

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42 43 improvement on which the second tier subcontractor worked or furnished materials. A second tier subcontractor, to the extent of his lien provided in this subdivision, shall also be entitled to be subrogated to the lien of the first tier subcontractor with whom he dealt provided for in subdivision (1) and shall be entitled to perfect it by notice to the extent of his claim.

- A third tier subcontractor who furnished labor or (3) materials labor, materials, or rental equipment at the site of the improvement shall be entitled to a lien upon funds which are owed to the second tier the third subcontractor with whom tier subcontractor dealt and which arise out of the improvement on which the third tier subcontractor materials. furnished Α third worked or subcontractor, to the extent of his lien provided in this subdivision, shall also be entitled to be second tier the lien of the subrogated to subcontractor with whom he dealt and to the lien of the first tier subcontractor with whom the second tier subcontractor dealt to the extent that the is entitled tier subcontractor subrogated thereto, and in either case shall be entitled to perfect the same by notice to the extent of his claim.
- Subcontractors more remote than the third tier who furnished labor or material labor, materials, or rental equipment at the site of the improvement shall be entitled to a lien upon funds which are owed to the person with whom they dealt and which improvement on which they out of the furnished labor or material, labor, materials, or but such remote rental equipment, subcontractor shall not be entitled to subrogation to the rights of other persons.
- (5) The liens granted under this section shall secure amounts earned by the lien claimant as a result of his having furnished labor or materials labor, materials, or rental equipment at the site of the improvement under the contract to improve real property, whether or not such amounts are due and whether or not performance or delivery is complete.

96C-RLZ-003 D-3 Page 3

1		(6) A lien upon funds granted under this section is
2		perfected upon the giving of notice in writing to
3		the obligor as provided in G.S. 44A-19 and shall be
4		effective upon the obligor's receipt of the notice.
5		The subrogation rights of a first, second, or third
6		tier subcontractor to the lien of the contractor
7		created by Part 1 of Article 2 of this Chapter are
. 8		perfected as provided in G.S. 44A-23."
9		Sec. 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 1996 and
10	applies	to lien rights that arise on or after that date.

Page 4 D-4 96C-RLZ-003

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL 2

RENTAL EQUIPMENT LIENS

Section 1: Section 1 amends G.S. 44A-7(1) by adding to the definition of "improve," as it applies to statutory liens on real property, rental equipment directly utilized on the real property in making an improvement.

Section 2: This section amends G.S. 44A-8, which describes persons entitled to a lien because of a contract with the owner of real property. Presently, this category includes those who furnish labor or material, or who furnish professional design or surveying services. The amendment adds persons who furnish rental equipment.

Section 3: This section amends G.S. 44A-18, which grants liens to various categories of subcontractors. Presently, subcontractors are entitled to a lien for furnishing labor or materials. The amendment provides for a lien for furnishing rental equipment.

Section 4: The act becomes effective July 1, 1996 and applies to lien rights that arise on or after that date.