

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 201*

Short Title: Landowner Protection.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Albertson; Warren, Speed, Hoyle, Perdue, Dannelly, and Carpenter.

Referred to: Judiciary I/Constitution.

February 15, 1995

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO LIMIT THE LIABILITY OF LANDOWNERS TO MEMBERS OF THE
3 PUBLIC ENTERING THE LAND FOR EDUCATIONAL AND RECREATIONAL
4 PURPOSES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. The General Statutes are amended by adding a new Chapter to
7 read:

8 **"CHAPTER 38A.**
9 **"LANDOWNER LIABILITY.**

10 **"§ 38A-1. Purpose.**

11 The purpose of this Chapter is to encourage owners of land to make land and water
12 areas available to the public for educational and recreational purposes by:

- 13 (1) Limiting the liability of the owner to persons entering the land for
14 those purposes;
- 15 (2) Ensuring that through making one's land available for educational and
16 recreational purposes, an owner need not be subjected to waste or a
17 financial burden.

18 **"§ 38A-2. Definitions.**

19 The following definitions shall apply throughout this Chapter, unless otherwise
20 specified:

- 21 (1) 'Charge' means a price or fee asked for services, entertainment,
22 recreation performed, or products offered for sale on land or in return
23 for an invitation or permission to enter upon land, except as otherwise
24 excluded in this Chapter.

- 1 (2) 'Educational purpose' means any activity undertaken as part of a
2 formal or informal educational program, and viewing historical,
3 natural, archaeological, or scientific sites.
- 4 (3) 'Land' means real property, land, and water, other than any real
5 property, land, and water that are appurtenant to a private residence.
- 6 (4) 'Owner' means any individual, legal entity, or governmental entity, and
7 any employee or agent, that has any fee or security.
- 8 (5) 'Recreational purpose' means any activity undertaken for recreation,
9 exercise, education, relaxation, refreshment, diversion, or pleasure.

10 **"§ 38A-3. Exclusions.**

11 For purposes of this act, the term 'charge' does not include:

- 12 (1) Unless otherwise agreed in writing, any lease, dedication, license, or
13 easement, or the proceeds thereof, by an owner of land to a nonprofit
14 organization or governmental entity for educational or recreational
15 purposes.
- 16 (2) Any action taken by a person, legal entity, nonprofit organization, or
17 governmental entity other than the owner, or any monetary
18 contribution made, in either event, whether or not sanctioned or
19 solicited by the owner, the purpose of which is to (i) improve access to
20 land for educational or recreational purposes; (ii) remedy damage to
21 land caused by educational or recreational use; or (iii) provide warning
22 of hazards on, or remove hazards from, land used for educational or
23 recreational purposes.
- 24 (3) Unless otherwise agreed in writing or otherwise provided by the State
25 or federal tax codes, any property tax abatement or relief received by
26 the owner from the State or local taxing authority in exchange for the
27 owner's agreement to open the land for educational or recreational
28 purposes.
- 29 (4) Unless otherwise agreed in writing, any contribution in kind, services,
30 or cash paid to reduce or offset costs and eliminate losses from
31 educational or recreational use.

32 **"§ 38A-4. Limitation of liability.**

33 Except as specifically recognized by or provided for in this act, an owner of land
34 who either directly or indirectly invites or permits without charge any person to use
35 such land for educational or recreational purposes owes the person the same duty of care
36 that he owes a trespasser."

37 Sec. 2. This act becomes effective October 1, 1995, and applies to all causes
38 of action arising after that date. This act shall expire September 30, 2000.