

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 41

Short Title: Cartway Amendment.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representative Brown.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House.

February 8, 1999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO BROADEN THE LAW PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
CARTWAYS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 136-69 reads as rewritten:

"§ 136-69. Cartways, tramways, etc., laid out; procedure.

~~If~~ In order to ensure that all landowners who do not have a deeded or documented easement or right-of-way to a public road shall have a legal means of obtaining access to that road, if any person, firm, association, or corporation shall be engaged in the cultivation of any land or the cutting and removing of any standing timber, or the working of any quarries, mines, or minerals, or the operating of any industrial or manufacturing plants, or public or private cemetery, or the use of land as a single-family homestead, or taking action preparatory to the operation of any such enterprises, to which there is leading no public road, reasonable deeded or documented easement or right-of-way to a public road, or other adequate means of transportation, other than a navigable waterway, affording necessary and proper means of ingress thereto and egress therefrom, such person, firm, association, or corporation may institute a special proceeding as set out in the preceding section (G.S. 136-68), and if it shall G.S. 136-68. Should it be made to appear to the court necessary, reasonable and just that such person shall have a private way to a public road or watercourse or railroad over the lands of other persons, the court

1 shall appoint a jury of view of three disinterested freeholders to view the premises and
2 lay off a cartway, tramway, or railway of not ~~less~~more than 18 feet ~~in width, of travel~~
3 surface or such other minimum width requested in the petition and found necessary and
4 proper by the court, and not more than 30 feet in width for cuts, fills, and ditches or
5 cableways, chutes, and ~~flumes, and flumes~~. If a cartway is granted for the use of one or
6 more single-family homesteads, each single-family homestead must consist of at least
7 seven acres of land. Where there exists a private railroad crossing, that private railroad
8 crossing may be used as part of a cartway established under this Article provided the
9 person, firm, association, or corporation seeking the cartway agrees to share
10 proportionately with other landowners authorized to use the crossing the cost of
11 maintaining the private crossing and to protect and hold harmless the railroad against all
12 liability associated with the crossing, provided the railroad is being operated in a lawful
13 manner at or in the vicinity of the crossing. Except as herein provided for the
14 establishment of a cartway over an existing private railroad crossing, no real estate, right-
15 of-way, easement, leasehold, or other interest in land which has been condemned by a
16 railroad, or has been obtained for a railroad's use as a right-of-way, depot, or station
17 house shall be used for the establishment of a cartway or other use under this Article
18 except by agreement with the railroad. Should a petitioner seeking a cartway request a
19 new railroad crossing, the railroad shall negotiate in good faith the location of the new
20 crossing at the requested location or some other mutually agreeable location. The jury of
21 view shall assess the damages the owner or owners of the land crossed may sustain
22 thereby, and make report of their findings in writing to the clerk of the superior court.
23 Exceptions to said report may be filed by any interested party and such exceptions shall
24 be heard and determined by the clerk of the superior court. The clerk of the superior
25 court may affirm or modify said report, or set the same aside and order a new jury of
26 view. All damages assessed by a judgment of the clerk, together with the cost of the
27 proceeding, shall be paid into the clerk's office before the petitioners shall acquire any
28 rights under said proceeding.

29 Where a tract of land lies partly in one county and partly in an adjoining county, or
30 where a tract of land lies wholly within one county and the public road nearest or from
31 which the most practical roadway to said land would run, lies in an adjoining county and
32 the practical way for a cartway to said land would lead over lands in an adjoining county,
33 then and in that event the proceeding for the laying out and establishing of a cartway may
34 be commenced in either the county in which the land is located or the adjoining county
35 through which said cartway would extend to the public road, and upon the filing of such
36 petition in either county the clerk of the court shall have jurisdiction to proceed for the
37 appointment of a jury from the county in which the petition is filed and proceed for the
38 laying out and establishing of a cartway as if the tract of land to be reached by the
39 cartway and the entire length of the cartway are all located within the bounds of said
40 county in which the petition may be filed. A permissive use of a right-of-way or
41 easement across the land of another shall not be a bar to the establishment of a cartway
42 under this Article. In determining the path of a cartway, tramway, or railway, the jury of
43 view shall give priority to the location of previously used easements or cartways."

1 Section 2. G.S. 136-70 reads as rewritten:

2 **"§ 136-70. Alteration or abandonment of cartways, etc., in same manner.**

3 Cartways or other ways established under this Article or heretofore established, may
4 be altered, changed, or abandoned in like manner as herein provided for their
5 establishment upon petition instituted by any interested party: ~~Provided, that all cartways,~~
6 ~~tramways, or railways established for the removal of timber shall automatically terminate at the~~
7 ~~end of a period of five years, unless a greater time is set forth in the petition and the judgment~~
8 ~~establishing the same.~~ party. A cartway established under this Article shall not terminate
9 until the time specified in the petition and as found necessary and proper by the court."

10 Section 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.