GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2005

H HOUSE BILL 1288

Short Title: Cleanup of Abandoned Mobile Homes.

Sponsors: Representatives Haire and Grady (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Finance.

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April 19, 2005

(Public)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1 2 AN ACT TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY 3 REQUIRING COUNTIES TO DEVELOP PLANS THAT PROVIDE FOR THE 4 DECONSTRUCTION OF ABANDONED MANUFACTURED HOMES AND 5 THE REMOVAL OF REUSABLE OR RECYCLABLE COMPONENTS, BY PROVIDING FOR THE ABATEMENT OF ABANDONED MANUFACTURED 6 7 HOMES THAT ARE DETERMINED TO BE A NUISANCE, AND BY 8 IMPOSING AN ADVANCE DISPOSAL TAX ON THE SALE OF NEW AND USED MANUFACTURED HOMES TO ENSURE THAT FUNDS WILL BE 9 10 **AVAILABLE FOR** THE DECONSTRUCTION OF **ABANDONED** 11 MANUFACTURED HOMES. 12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: 13 **SECTION 1.** Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended 14 by adding a new Part to read: "Part 2E. Management of Abandoned Manufactured Homes. 15 "§ 130A-309.90. Findings; purpose. 16 17 The General Assembly finds that: (a) 18 (1) The number of manufactured homes in North Carolina has risen dramatically as land has become scarce and the housing market has 19 20 become more expensive. 21 (2) Manufactured homes may be difficult and expensive to repair when they begin to deteriorate. Often consumers simply buy another 22 23 manufactured home unit rather than refurbish a manufactured home 24 that needs repair. 25 According to data obtained through the 2000 United States Census, (3)

in need of extensive repair.

there are more than 80,000 vacant manufactured homes in North

Carolina, of which 40,000 are estimated to be permanently untended or

- Abandoned manufactured homes create public health and (4) 1 2 environmental problems and are a visual blight on the landscape of 3 North Carolina. Further, an abandoned manufactured home poses a fire hazard, a safety hazard to unsupervised children, and is a potential 4 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 Most landfills will not accept intact manufactured homes due to their <u>(5)</u> 9 bulky nature. In those instances where landfills do accept intact 10 manufactured homes for disposal, the cost of disposal can be prohibitive for many manufactured homeowners. Landfill disposal 11 12 costs include tipping fees, the costs of transporting the obsolete structures to the landfill, and the costs of removing any hazardous 13 14 materials, such as asbestos and other harmful chemicals. 15 (6) Many components of manufactured homes can be reused or recycled, including windows, screens, doors, copper tubing, copper wiring, 16 17 aluminum, tin, steel, lumber, steel frames, pipes, countertops, cabinets, 18 and other appliances and fixtures. It is estimated that twenty-six percent (26%) to thirty-eight percent (38%) of the components of a 19 20 manufactured home can be reused or recycled without extensive 21 manual labor. It is desirable to allow units of local government to manage the 22 <u>(7)</u> disposal of abandoned manufactured homes for themselves and to 23 24 encourage regional approaches to the deconstruction of abandoned manufactured homes, the removal of components from abandoned 25 manufactured homes that are reusable or recyclable, and the proper 26 27 disposal of the remainder. It is in the State's best interest to encourage the reduction of the 28 (8) 29 volume of intact manufactured homes being disposed of at public 30 sanitary landfills, to encourage the deconstruction of abandoned manufactured homes, the removal of components from abandoned 31 32 manufactured homes that are reusable or recyclable, and to encourage 33 the proper disposal of the remainder. The purpose of this Part is to provide units of local government with the 34 (b) 35 authority, funding, and guidance needed to provide for the efficient and proper identification, deconstruction, recycling, and disposal of abandoned manufactured 36 homes in this State. 37 "<u>§ 130A-309.91.</u> Definitions. 38 The following definitions apply to this Part: 39 40
 - (1) 'Abandoned manufactured home' means a manufactured home that is both:
 - a. Vacant or in need of extensive repair.
 - b. A nuisance.

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- 1 (2) <u>'Intact'</u> when used in connection with 'abandoned manufactured home'
 2 means an abandoned manufactured home from which the wheels and
 3 axels, white goods, and recyclable materials have not been removed.
 - (3) 'Manufactured home' is defined in G.S. 105-187.60.
 - (4) 'Nuisance' means an unreasonable danger to public health, safety, or welfare or to the environment or natural resources.

"§ 130A-309.92. Management of abandoned manufactured homes.

- (a) Plan. As a component of the comprehensive solid waste management plan it is required to develop under G.S. 130A-309.09A(b), each county shall develop a written plan for the management of abandoned manufactured homes. At a minimum, this plan shall:
 - (1) <u>Identify all abandoned manufactured homes in the county.</u>
 - (2) Provide for the deconstruction of these abandoned manufactured homes.
 - (3) Provide for the removal of the components thereof for reuse or recycling, as appropriate.
 - (4) Provide for the proper disposal of the remaining abandoned manufactured homes that were not deconstructed under subdivision (2) of this subsection.
- (b) Authority to Contract. A county may contract with another unit of local government or a private entity in accordance with Article 15 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes to provide for the management of abandoned manufactured homes within the county and the implementation of its plan under subsection (a) of this section.
- (c) Restrictions. A county or a party that contracted with the county under subsection (b) of this section shall not charge a disposal fee for the disposal of any abandoned manufactured home sold on or after 1 January 2006.
- (d) An intact abandoned manufactured home shall not be disposed of in a landfill, other than a landfill that has been specifically permitted for the disposal of construction and demolition waste, and shall not be disposed of in an incinerator or a waste-to-energy facility, if the county in which the abandoned manufactured home is located has elected to implement the plan it is required to develop under subsection (a) of this section.

"§ 130A-309.93. Process for abatement of nuisance caused by abandoned manufactured homes.

(a) If a county adopts and implements a plan for the management of abandoned manufactured homes, the county or the party that contracted with the county under G.S. 130A-309.92(b) shall notify the person responsible for each identified abandoned manufactured home in the county that the abandoned manufactured home constitutes a nuisance and shall request that the abandoned manufactured home be properly disposed of by that person within 90 days. The notice shall be in writing and shall be served on the person as provided by Rule 4(j) of the Rules of Civil Procedure, G.S. 1A-1. If the person fails to take the requested action prior to the expiration of this period, the county or the party that contracted with the county shall order the person to abate the nuisance within 90 days of the expiration of this period. If the person responsible for the

- abandoned manufactured home fails to comply with this order, the county or the party that contracted with the county shall take any action it deems reasonably necessary to abate the nuisance, including entering the property where the abandoned manufactured home is located and arranging to have the abandoned manufactured home deconstructed and disposed of in a manner consistent with the plan developed under G.S. 130A-309.92(a). If the person responsible for the nuisance is not the owner of the property on which the abandoned manufactured home is located, the county or the party that contracted with the county may order the property owner to permit entry onto the owner's property by an appropriate party to permit the removal and proper disposal of the abandoned manufactured home.
 - (b) When a county removes, deconstructs, and disposes of an abandoned manufactured home pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, whether directly or through a party that contracted with the county, the person responsible for the abandoned manufactured home shall be liable for any unpaid property taxes due on the home and for the actual costs incurred by the county, directly or indirectly, for its abatement activities and its administrative and legal expenses related to its abatement activities, less the amount of grants for reimbursement received by the county under G.S. 130A-309.94(c) for the abatement activities for that manufactured home. The county or the party that contracted with the county may initiate a civil action to recover these unpaid taxes or costs from the person responsible for the abandoned manufactured home. Nonpayment of any unpaid taxes or of all or any portion of the actual costs incurred by the county shall result in the imposition of a lien on any real property in the county owned by the person responsible for the abandoned manufactured home.
 - (c) This section does not apply to any of the following:
 - (1) A retail business premises where manufactured homes are sold.
 - (2) A solid waste disposal facility where no more than 10 manufactured homes are stored at one time if all of the manufactured homes received for storage are deconstructed or removed from the facility within one year after receipt.
 - (d) The order of priority for abatement activities under subsection (a) of this section, from highest to lowest, is as follows:
 - (1) Any abandoned manufactured home that constitutes a fire hazard or threat to public health or safety.
 - (2) Any abandoned manufactured home located in a densely populated area.
 - (3) Any other abandoned manufactured home.
 - (e) This section does not change the existing authority of a county or a municipality to enforce any existing laws or of any person to abate a nuisance.

"§ 130A-309.94. Manufactured Homes Management Account.

(a) The Manufactured Homes Management Account is established within the Department. The Manufactured Homes Management Account is nonreverting and consists of revenue credited to the Manufactured Homes Management Account from the proceeds of the manufactured home disposal tax imposed in G.S. 105-187.61.

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- (b) The Department may use a portion of the Manufactured Homes Management Account to pay for the actual costs it incurs managing the Manufactured Homes Management Account, providing technical assistance and support to counties to facilitate achieving the purposes of this Part, and implementing, administering, and supporting the program under this Part, including costs associated with staffing, training, submitting reports, and fulfilling program goals.
- (c) The Department shall use the remaining funds in the Manufactured Homes Management Account to reimburse counties for a portion of their expenses for activities under this Part by making grants to counties. The Department shall adopt rules setting out the process for applying for reimbursement grants governing the award of reimbursement grants by the Department.
- Each county that requests a reimbursement grant from the Account shall also submit to the Department a budget specifying in detail the expenses it expects to incur in a specified time period in connection with the activities under this Part. The Department shall review each submitted budget and make modifications, if necessary, in light of the availability of funds in the Manufactured Homes Management Account, the county's capacity to effectively and efficiently manage the abatement of abandoned manufactured homes, and any other factors that the Department reasonably determines are relevant. When the Department and a county agree on the amount of the county's budget under this subsection, the Department and the county shall execute a grant agreement that reflects this amount and that specifies the time period covered by the grant agreement. The amount of the budget in any grant agreement is the maximum amount that any county may receive as a reimbursement grant from all sources for abatement activities for the time period specified in the agreement. The amount of a reimbursement grant shall be calculated in accordance with subsection (e) and subsection (f) of this section. A county shall not receive a reimbursement grant unless it has filed all the annual reports it is required to submit under G.S. 130A-309.96.
- (e) Each county is responsible for at least twenty-five percent (25%) of the cost of identifying, removing, deconstructing, recycling, and disposing of each abandoned manufactured home, except that any county may seek to recover any costs it incurs pursuant to G.S. 130A-309.93(b). Reimbursement grants from the Manufactured Homes Management Account shall be made in accordance with the terms of the grant agreement, but in any event, all reimbursements shall be calculated on a per unit basis and based on the actual cost of such activities, not to exceed seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) for each unit.
- (f) A county shall use reimbursement grant funds only for operating expenses that are directly related to the management of abandoned manufactured homes. If an operating expense is partially related to the management of abandoned manufactured homes, a county may use the reimbursement grant funds to finance the percentage of the cost that equals the percentage of the expense that is directly related to the management of abandoned manufactured homes.

"§ 130A-309.95. Authority to adopt ordinances.

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

"§ 130A-309.96. Reporting on the management of abandoned manufactured homes.

- (a) On or before 1 November of each year, any county that receives a reimbursement grant under G.S. 130A-309.94 shall submit an Annual Financial Information Report, prepared in accordance with G.S. 159-33.1, to the Department. All of the following information shall be included in the report:
 - (1) The number of units and approximate tonnage of abandoned manufactured homes removed, deconstructed, recycled, and disposed of during the previous fiscal year.
 - (2) A detailed statement of the county's abandoned manufactured homes account receipts and disbursements during the previous fiscal year that sets out the source of all receipts and the purpose of all disbursements.
 - (3) The obligated and unobligated balances in the county's abandoned manufactured homes account at the end of the fiscal year.
 - (4) An assessment of the county's progress in removing, deconstructing, recycling, and disposing of abandoned manufactured homes consistent with this Part.
- (b) The Department shall include in its annual report to the Environmental Review Commission under G.S. 130A-309.06(c) a description of the management of abandoned manufactured homes in the State for the fiscal year ending the preceding 30 June. The description of the management of abandoned manufactured homes shall include all of the following information:
 - (1) The amount of taxes collected and distributed under G.S. 105-187.64 during the reporting period.
 - (2) The cost to each county of managing its abandoned manufactured home program during the reporting period.
 - (3) The beginning and ending balances of the Manufactured Homes Management Account for the reporting period and a list of grants made from the Manufactured Homes Management Account for the period, itemized by county.
 - (4) A summary of the information concerning the counties' abandoned manufactured home management programs contained in the counties' Annual Financial Information Report and the reports submitted under subsection (a) of this section.
 - (5) Any other information the Department considers helpful in understanding the problem of managing abandoned manufactured homes in the State.

"§ 130A-309.97. Effect on local ordinances.

(a) This Part preempts any local ordinance regarding the management of abandoned manufactured homes that is inconsistent with this Part. It does not preempt any local ordinance regarding the management of abandoned manufactured homes that is consistent with this Part.

- (b) This Part shall not be construed to limit the authority of counties under Article 18 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes or the authority of cities under Article 19 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes."
 - **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-309.06(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
 - "(14) A description of the activities related to the management of abandoned manufactured homes in the State in accordance with G.S. 130A-309.96, the beginning and ending balances in the Manufactured Homes Management Account for the reporting period, the amount credited to the Manufactured Homes Management Account during the reporting period, and the amount of revenue used, itemized by county, for grants made under Part 2E of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes."
 - **SECTION 3.** G.S. 130A-309.09A(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:
 - "(9) Include as a component a written plan for the management of abandoned manufactured homes as required under G.S. 130A-309.92(a)."
 - **SECTION 4.** Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 5G.

"Manufactured Home Disposal Tax.

"§ 105-187.60. Definitions.

The definitions in G.S. 105-164.3 apply to this Article, except that the term 'sale' does not include lease or rental. 'Manufactured home' is defined in G.S. 105-164.3(20). Manufactured home also means any structure that otherwise satisfies the definition in G.S. 105-164.3(20) but that, although designed for use as a dwelling, is in fact used for commercial or other nonresidential purposes, and that may or may not be placed on a permanent foundation at the time of sale.

"§ 105-187.61. Tax imposed.

A privilege tax is imposed on a manufactured home retailer at a flat rate for each new manufactured home sold by the retailer and for each used manufactured home sold by the retailer. An excise tax is imposed on each new manufactured home and on each used manufactured home purchased outside the State for storage, use, or consumption in this State. These taxes are in addition to all other taxes. The rate of the privilege tax and the excise tax is as follows:

- (1) For each new or used singlewide manufactured home, three hundred dollars (\$300.00).
- (2) For each new or used multi-section manufactured home, three hundred dollars (\$300.00) for each section of the manufactured home.

"§ 105-187.62. Administration.

The privilege tax this Article imposes on a manufactured home retailer who sells new or used manufactured homes at retail is an additional State sales tax, and the excise tax this Article imposes on the storage, use, or consumption of a new or used

- manufactured home in this State is an additional State use tax. Except as otherwise 1 2 provided in this Article, these taxes shall be collected and administered in the same
- 3 manner as the State sales and use taxes imposed by Article 5 of this Chapter. As under
- 4 Article 5 of this Chapter, the additional State sales tax paid when a new or used
- 5 manufactured home is sold is a credit against the additional State use tax imposed on the 6
 - storage, use, or consumption of the same manufactured home.

"§ 105-187.63. Exemptions.

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The exemptions in G.S. 105-164.13 and the refunds allowed in G.S. 105-164.14 do not apply to the taxes imposed by this Article.

"§ 105-187.64. Use of tax proceeds.

- The Secretary shall distribute the taxes collected under this Article, less the Department of Revenue's allowance for cost of collecting the taxes, in accordance with this section. The Secretary may retain the Department of Revenue's cost of collection, not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), as reimbursement to the Department of Revenue.
- (b) Each quarter, the Secretary shall credit the net tax proceeds to the Manufactured Homes Management Account. Funds in the Manufactured Homes Management Account may be used only as provided in G.S. 130A-309.94."
- 19 **SECTION 5.** This act becomes effective 1 January 2006. Section 4 of this 20 act applies to sales made on or after that date.