

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2005**

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SENATE BILL 1352*
Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute Adopted
6/15/06

Short Title: Waterfront Access Study Committee.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 15, 2006

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE WATERFRONT ACCESS STUDY COMMITTEE
3 AND TO DIRECT THE COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE LOSS OF DIVERSITY
4 OF USES ALONG THE COASTAL SHORELINE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND
5 HOW THESE LOSSES IMPACT ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC TRUST WATERS
6 OF THE STATE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE
7 COMMISSION ON SEAFOOD AND AQUACULTURE.

8 Whereas, there is a growing concern that the State may be experiencing a loss
9 of diversity of uses along its coastal shoreline as more people seek waterfront property;
10 and

11 Whereas, many of the State's waterfront uses such as public marinas, boat
12 building and boat servicing companies, commercial fishing facilities, fish houses, and
13 other commercial establishments that depend on water access are being replaced by
14 residential properties; and

15 Whereas, the North Carolina Marine Fisheries Commission and the North
16 Carolina Coastal Resources Commission have adopted resolutions recognizing the
17 importance of waterfront access issues; Now, therefore,
18 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

19 **SECTION 1.** Committee Created. – There is created the Waterfront Access
20 Study Committee.

21 **SECTION 2.** Membership. – The Committee shall be comprised of 18
22 members as follows:

- 23 (1) The Director of the Sea Grant College Program of The University of
24 North Carolina or the Director's designee.
25 (2) The Senate Cochair of the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood
26 and Aquaculture or the Cochair's designee.
27 (3) The House Cochair of the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood
28 and Aquaculture or the Cochair's designee.

- 1 (4) The Chair of the Marine Fisheries Commission or the Chair's designee.
- 2 (5) The Chair of the Coastal Resources Commission or the Chair's
- 3 designee.
- 4 (6) The Chair of the Wildlife Resources Commission or the Chair's
- 5 designee.
- 6 (7) The Director of the Division of Marine Fisheries or the Director's
- 7 designee.
- 8 (8) The Director of the Division of Coastal Management or the Director's
- 9 designee.
- 10 (9) A representative of a local government located in the Northeast
- 11 Coastal Region, as described by G.S. 143B-289.54(b), appointed by
- 12 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- 13 (10) A representative of a local government located in the Central Coastal
- 14 Region, as described by G.S. 143B-289.54(b), appointed by the
- 15 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 16 (11) A representative of a local government located in the Southeast
- 17 Coastal Region, as described by G.S. 143B-289.54(b), appointed by
- 18 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- 19 (12) An economist appointed by the Speaker of the House of
- 20 Representatives.
- 21 (13) A representative from the real estate development community
- 22 appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- 23 (14) A representative of the marine trades industry appointed by the
- 24 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 25 (15) A representative of the commercial fishing industry appointed by the
- 26 President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- 27 (16) A representative of the recreational fishing industry appointed by the
- 28 Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- 29 (17) A social scientist appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
- 30 Senate.
- 31 (18) A representative of the environmental community appointed by the
- 32 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

33 Members shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

34 **SECTION 3.** Duties of the Committee. – The Committee, with the
35 assistance of the Sea Grant College Program of The University of North Carolina and
36 the North Carolina Coastal Resources Law, Planning, and Policy Center, shall study the
37 degree of loss and potential loss of the diversity of uses along the coastal shoreline of
38 North Carolina and how these losses impact access to the public trust waters of the
39 State. Specifically, the Committee shall:

- 40 (1) Gather information about local land-use management and zoning,
- 41 current shoreline development trends, and local tax rates, including tax
- 42 assessment trends for shoreline properties.

- 1 (2) Collect research and information from North Carolina and other states
2 and jurisdictions regarding incentive-based techniques and
3 management tools used to preserve waterfront diversity.
4 (3) Assess the applicability of such tools and techniques to the coastal
5 shorelines of North Carolina.
6 (4) Prepare a draft report with a statement of the issues, a summary of the
7 research, and recommendations to address issues of diversity of
8 waterfront use and access in North Carolina.
9 (5) Hold three public meetings to present the draft report and
10 recommendations to the public and user groups. One public meeting
11 shall be held in each of the three coastal regions described by
12 G.S. 143B-289.54(b).

13 **SECTION 4.** Vacancies. – Any vacancy shall be filled by the original
14 appointing authority.

15 **SECTION 5.** Quorum. – A quorum of the Committee shall be a majority of
16 its members.

17 **SECTION 6.** Chair. – The Director of the Sea Grant College Program of
18 The University of North Carolina or the Director's designee shall be the Chair of the
19 Committee.

20 **SECTION 7.** Meetings. – The Committee shall meet upon the call of the
21 Chair.

22 **SECTION 8.** Expenses of Members. – Members of the Committee shall
23 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1,
24 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

25 **SECTION 9.** Report. – The Committee may submit an interim report of its
26 study to the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and Aquaculture, the Marine
27 Fisheries Commission, and the Coastal Resources Commission no later than November
28 1, 2006. The Committee shall submit a final report of the results of its study, including
29 any legislative recommendations, to the Joint Legislative Commission on Seafood and
30 Aquaculture, the Marine Fisheries Commission, and the Coastal Resources Commission
31 no later than January 15, 2007.

32 **SECTION 10.** Expiration of Committee. – The Committee shall terminate
33 on January 31, 2007, or upon the filing of its final report, whichever occurs first.

34 **SECTION 11.** Funds. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
35 Sea Grant College Program of The University of North Carolina the sum of fifty
36 thousand dollars (\$50,000) for the 2006-2007 fiscal year for the costs of the Waterfront
37 Access Study Committee created by this act.

38 **SECTION 12.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2006.