

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 1178

Short Title: Central Meter for Natural Gas.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Albertson.

Referred to: Commerce, Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

March 22, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE UTILITIES COMMISSION TO APPROVE
CENTRAL NATURAL GAS SYSTEMS AND METERS TO SERVE RESIDENTS
IN MULTIUNIT RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS WHO USE ENERGY EFFICIENT
APPLIANCES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 143-151.42 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-151.42. Prohibition of master meters for electric and natural gas service.

(a) From and after September 1, 1977, in order that each occupant of an apartment or other individual dwelling unit may be responsible for his own conservation of electricity and gas, it shall be unlawful for any new residential building, as hereinafter defined, to be served by a master meter for electric service or natural gas service. Each individual dwelling unit shall have individual electric service with a separate electric meter and, if it has natural gas, individual natural gas service with a separate natural gas meter, which service and meters shall be in the name of the tenant or other occupant of ~~said-the~~ apartment or other dwelling unit. No electric supplier or natural gas supplier, whether regulated public utility or municipal corporation or electric membership corporation supplying ~~said-the~~ utility service, shall connect any residential building for electric service or natural gas service through a master meter, and ~~said-the~~ electric or natural gas supplier shall serve each ~~said-~~apartment or dwelling unit by separate service and separate meter and shall bill and charge each individual occupant of ~~said-the~~ separate apartment or dwelling unit for ~~said-the~~ electric or natural gas service. A new residential building is hereby defined for the purposes of this section as any building for which a building permit is issued on or after September 1, 1977, which includes two or more apartments or other family dwelling units.

(b) ~~Provided, however, that any~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any owner or builder of a multi-unit residential building who desires to provide central heat or air conditioning or central hot water from a central furnace, air conditioner or hot water heater which incorporates solar assistance or other designs

1 which accomplish greater energy conservation than separate heat, hot water, or air
2 conditioning for each dwelling ~~unit,~~unit, or who desires to provide central natural gas
3 from a central supply to be used for energy efficient appliances, including stoves, grills,
4 fireplaces, and dryers, may apply to the North Carolina Utilities Commission for
5 approval of ~~said the~~central heat, air ~~conditioning or hot water system,~~conditioning, hot
6 water, or natural gas system, which may include a central meter for electricity or gas
7 used in ~~said the~~central system, and the Utilities Commission shall promptly consider
8 ~~said the~~application and approve it for ~~such the~~central meters if energy is conserved by
9 ~~said design.~~the design or appliances.

10 (c) This section shall apply to any dwelling unit normally rented or leased for a
11 minimum period of one month or longer, including apartments, condominiums and
12 townhouses, but shall not apply to hotels, motels, dormitories, rooming houses or
13 nursing homes, or homes for the elderly. This section shall also not apply to continuing
14 care retirement facilities or existing hotels or motels that are converted into
15 condominiums or townhouses if alternative conservation measures, including the use of
16 energy efficient appliances, are used in the individual dwelling units."

17 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.