

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 263*

Short Title: Liens/Self-Service Storage Facilities. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Brown (Primary Sponsor); and Rabin.

Referred to: Commerce.

March 13, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AUTHORIZING AN OWNER OF A SELF-STORAGE FACILITY WHO HAS A
3 LIEN UPON PERSONAL PROPERTY TO DELIVER NOTICE OF THE PUBLIC SALE
4 OF THE PROPERTY BY REGULAR OR ELECTRONIC MAIL, TO PUBLISH NOTICE
5 IN ANY COMMERCIALY REASONABLE MANNER, AND TO CONDUCT THE
6 SALE THROUGH AN ONLINE, PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE AUCTION WEB SITE,
7 AND TO INCREASE THE LATE FEES FOR SELF-STORAGE FACILITY RENTAL
8 CONTRACTS.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 SECTION 1. G.S. 44A-40 reads as rewritten:

11 "§ 44A-40. Definitions.

12 As used in this Article, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

13 (1) "Last known address" means that mailing address or e-mail address provided
14 by the occupant in the latest rental agreement or the address provided by the
15 occupant in a subsequent written notice of a change of address.

16 ...

17 (5) "Personal property" means movable property not affixed to land and
18 includes, but is not limited to, goods, merchandise, ~~and household~~
19 ~~items.~~household items, and watercraft.

20 ...

21 (8) "E-mail" or "electronic mail" means an electronic message or an executable
22 program or computer file that contains an image of a message that is
23 transmitted between two or more computers or electronic terminals. The
24 term includes electronic messages that are transmitted within or between
25 computer networks."

26 SECTION 2. G.S. 44A-43 reads as rewritten:

27 "§ 44A-43. Enforcement of self-service storage facility lien.

28 ...

29 (b) Notice and Hearing:

30 ...

31 (1a) If the property upon which the lien is claimed is a motor ~~vehicle-vehicle,~~
32 watercraft, or trailer, and rent and other charges related to the property
33 remain unpaid or unsatisfied for 60 days following the maturity of the
34 obligation to pay rent, the lienor may have the property towed. If a motor
35 vehicle is towed as authorized in this subdivision, the lienor shall not be



- 1 liable for the motor vehicle or any damages to the motor vehicle once the
2 tower takes possession of the property.
- 3 (2) If the property upon which the lien is claimed is other than a motor
4 ~~vehicle, vehicle, watercraft, or trailer,~~ the lienor following the expiration of
5 the 15-day period provided by subsection (a) shall issue notice to the person
6 having a security or other interest in the property, if reasonably
7 ascertainable, and to the occupant, if different, at his last known address.
8 Notice given pursuant to this subdivision shall be presumed delivered when
9 it is properly addressed, first-class postage prepaid, and deposited with the
10 United States Postal ~~Service.~~Service or it is sent by electronic mail to the
11 occupant's last known address.
- 12 ...
- 13 (c) Public Sale. –
- 14 (1) Not less than 20 days prior to sale by public sale the lienor:
- 15 a. Shall cause notice to be delivered by ~~certified mail~~first-class mail,
16 postage prepaid, or electronic mail to the person having a security
17 interest in the property if reasonably ascertainable, and to the
18 occupant at the occupant's last known address. Notice given pursuant
19 to this subdivision shall be presumed delivered when it is properly
20 addressed, first-class postage prepaid, and deposited with the United
21 States Postal ~~Service.~~Service or sent by electronic mail to the
22 occupant's last known address.
- 23 b. Repealed by Session Laws 2009-201, s. 1, effective October 1, 2009.
- 24 (1a) Not less than five days prior to sale by public sale, the lienor shall publish
25 notice of sale either (i) in a newspaper of general circulation in the county
26 where the sale is to be held. If there is no newspaper of general circulation in
27 the county where the sale is to be held, notice of sale shall be published in
28 any publication that accepts classified advertisements and has a general
29 circulation in the county where the sale is to be held.held or (ii) in any other
30 commercially reasonable manner. The manner of advertisement shall be
31 deemed commercially reasonable if at least three independent bidders attend
32 the sale at the time and place advertised.
- 33 (2) ~~The sale must be held on a day other than Sunday and between the hours of~~
34 ~~9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.:~~
- 35 a. ~~At the self service storage facility or at the nearest suitable place to~~
36 ~~where the property is held or stored; or~~
- 37 b. ~~In the county where the obligation secured by the lien was contracted~~
38 ~~for.~~
- 39 (2a) The sale shall be conducted in a commercially reasonable manner, including
40 offering property to an audience of bidders through an online, publicly
41 accessible auction Web site.
- 42 a. If the sale is a live auction conducted at the facility, the nearest
43 suitable place where the property is held or stored, or in the county
44 where the obligation secured by the lien was contracted for, the sale
45 must be held on a day other than Sunday and between the hours of
46 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.
- 47 b. A lienor may purchase at public sale.
- 48 (3) A lienor may purchase at public sale.
- 49 (d) Notice of Sale. — The notice of sale shall include:
- 50 (1) ~~The name and address of the lienor;~~

1 (2) ~~A statement to the effect that various items of personal property are being~~
2 ~~sold pursuant to the assertion of a lien for rental at the self-service storage~~
3 ~~facility;~~

4 (3) ~~The place, date, and time of the sale."~~

5 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 66-306 reads as rewritten:

6 **"§ 66-306. Late fees.**

7 (a) In all rental contracts in which a definite time for the payment of the rent is fixed,
8 the late fee for each rental unit shall not exceed twenty dollars (\$20.00) or fifteen percent
9 ~~(15%)~~ twenty percent (20%) of the rental ~~payment~~ payment, whichever is greater, and shall not
10 be imposed by the self-service storage business until the rental payment for that rental unit is
11 five days or more late.

12 "

13 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.