

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

H.B. 706
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE DRH20215-MH-129 (3/26)

Short Title: Building Code/Rustic Cabins. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives McGrady, Whitmire, Jordan, and Harrison (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO AMEND THE NORTH
3 CAROLINA BUILDING CODE TO EXEMPT OPEN AIR CAMP CABINS FROM
4 CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS OF THE CODE.
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6 SECTION 1. Definitions. – As used in this act, "Council" means the Building
7 Code Council, "Code" means the 2012 North Carolina Building Code, and "open air camp
8 cabin" means a single-story structure that (i) has three walls consisting of at least twenty
9 percent (20%) screened openings no more than 44 inches above the floor; (ii) has no heating or
10 cooling system; (iii) is occupied for no more than 150 days within any rolling 365-day time
11 span; and (iv) accommodates 36 or fewer persons.
12 SECTION 2. New Code amendment. – Until the effective date of the Code
13 amendment that the Council is required to adopt pursuant to Section 4 of this act, the Council
14 and local governments enforcing the Code shall follow the provisions of Section 3 of this act
15 with respect to open air camp cabins.
16 SECTION 3. Implementation. – Notwithstanding any provision of the Code to the
17 contrary, the Council shall not enforce any requirements more stringent than the following for
18 open air camp cabins:
19 (1) The open air camp cabin shall have at least two remote unimpeded exits, but
20 lighted exit signs shall not be required.
21 (2) The open air camp cabin shall not be required to have plumbing or electrical
22 systems, but if the cabin has these systems, then the provisions of the Code
23 otherwise applicable to those systems shall apply.
24 (3) Smoke detectors and handheld fire extinguishers may be required as
25 otherwise provided in the Code, but no requirement for a sprinkler system
26 shall be imposed.
27 SECTION 4. Rule-making authority. – Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-19(4), the
28 Commission shall adopt rules establishing a new residential occupancy category under Section
29 310 of the Code for open air camp cabins that are substantively identical to the provisions of
30 Section 3 of this act.
31 SECTION 5. Sunset. – Section 3 of this act expires on the date that rules adopted
32 pursuant to Section 4 of this act become effective.
33 SECTION 6. This act is effective when it becomes law.

