

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 657

Short Title: Building Code Revisions.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Sherron.

Referred to: Judiciary II/Election Laws

April 11, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO ADOPT
2 ALTERNATIVE SAFETY SYSTEMS FOR BUILDINGS BUILT PRIOR TO 1953
3 AND TO REAPPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. G.S. 143-138(j) reads as rewritten:

6 "(j) Subsection (i) of this section does not apply to business occupancy buildings as
7 defined in the North Carolina State Building Code except that evacuation plans as
8 required on page 8, lines 2 through 16 [Section 1008, footnote following subsection (h)],
9 and smoke detectors as required for Class I Buildings as required by Section 1008.2, page
10 11, lines 5 through 21 [Section 1008.2, subdivision (c)(1)]; Class II Buildings as required
11 by Section 1008.3, page 17, lines 17 through 28 and page 18, lines 1 through 10 [Section
12 1008.3, subsections (c) and(d)]; and Class III Buildings, as required by Section 1008.4,
13 lines 21 through 25 [Section 1008.4, subsection (c)] shall not be exempted from operation
14 of this act as applied to business occupancy ~~buildings~~ buildings, except that the Council
15 shall adopt rules that allow a business occupancy building built prior to 1953 to have a
16 single exit to remain if the building complies with the following requirements:

17 (1) The building is fully equipped with quick response automatic sprinkler
18 heads.
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1 (2) The single exit stair enclosure has a two hour fire rating with all
2 openings protected.

3 (3) The single exit stair shaft is equipped with a smoke pressurization
4 system in compliance with subsection (i) of this section."

5 Sec. 2. The terms of office of the Building Code Council shall expire on July
6 1, 1995.

7 Sec. 3. G.S. 143-136(a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a) Creation; Membership; Terms. – There is hereby created a Building Code
9 Council, which shall be composed of ~~15~~17 members appointed by the Governor,
10 consisting of one registered architect, one licensed general contractor, one registered
11 architect or licensed general contractor specializing in residential design or construction,
12 one registered engineer practicing structural engineering, one registered engineer
13 practicing mechanical engineering, one registered engineer practicing electrical
14 engineering, one licensed plumbing and heating contractor, one municipal or county
15 building inspector, one licensed liquid petroleum gas dealer/contractor involved in the
16 design of natural and liquid petroleum gas systems who has expertise and experience in
17 natural and liquid petroleum gas piping, venting and appliances, a representative of the
18 public who is not a member of the building construction industry, a licensed electrical
19 contractor, a registered engineer on the engineering staff of a State agency charged with
20 approval of plans of State-owned buildings, a municipal elected official or city manager,
21 a county commissioner or county manager, ~~and~~an active member of the North Carolina
22 fire service with expertise in fire safety~~–safety~~, a member of the Building Owners and
23 Management Association, and a member of The Historic Preservation Society of North
24 Carolina, Inc. In selecting the municipal and county members, preference should be given
25 to members who qualify as either a registered architect, registered engineer, or licensed
26 general contractor. Of the members initially appointed by the Governor, ~~three~~six shall
27 serve for terms of two years ~~each~~, each, commencing on July 1, 1995, threesix shall serve
28 for terms of four years ~~each~~, each, commencing on July 1, 1995, and threefive shall serve
29 for terms of six years ~~each~~–each, commencing on July 1, 1995. Thereafter, all
30 appointments shall be for terms of six years. The Governor may remove appointive
31 members at any time. Neither the architect nor any of the above named engineers shall be
32 engaged in the manufacture, promotion or sale of any building material, and any member
33 who shall, during his term, cease to meet the qualifications for original appointment
34 (through ceasing to be a practicing member of the profession indicated or otherwise) shall
35 thereby forfeit his membership on the Council. In making new appointments or filling
36 vacancies, the Governor shall ensure that minorities and women are represented on the
37 Council.

38 The Governor may make appointments to fill the unexpired portions of any terms
39 vacated by reason of death, resignation, or removal from office. In making such
40 appointment, he shall preserve the composition of the Council required above."

41 Sec. 4. Sections 2 and 3 of this act become effective July 1, 1995. The
42 remainder of this act is effective upon ratification.