

March 24, 2005

**S 962. MIGRANT WORKER HOUSING ACT. TO ENHANCE LAWS RELATED TO THE MIGRANT HOUSING ACT OF NORTH CAROLINA.** Makes numerous very specific changes to the cited act (GS 95-223, et. seq.) to spell out specific requirements for migrant housing. Changes deal with kitchen, telephones, toilet facilities, and sleeping arrangements. Amends definition of migrant to include any individual who is employed in agricultural employment (including planting of trees, which is added by this bill), where housing is provided as an incident of employment. Includes in definition of "operator" anyone who contracts with an operator to provide employees. Limits exemption for operators who are also in the housing business to those whose housing includes no more than 50% of its tenants as migrants. Prohibits migrant housing charges that exceed "reasonable cost." Reasonable cost does not include any profit and is limited to lesser of actual cost or fair market value. Directs Labor Department to maintain list of operators and physical addresses of housing units and make them available for public inspection. If housing is determined to be uninhabitable, migrants may be allowed to remain for only 14 days, and suitable substitute must be found. Directs Department to use bilingual employees to extent possible. Effective January 1, 2006.

**Intro. by Purcell.**

Ref. to Commerce

GS 95