

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2011**

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**SENATE BILL 236
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S236-PCS75181-RW-54**

Short Title: Local Events Priority/Convention Center.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 8, 2011

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO GIVE PRIORITY TO LOCAL EVENTS AT SPECIFIED PUBLICLY OWNED
CONVENTION CENTERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this act:

- (1) Black-out period. – A period provided in a booking contract during which a directly competing event can be blocked from using the same publicly owned convention facility as the event provided for in the booking contract.
- (2) External event. – An exhibition or event planned, coordinated, financed, and promoted by a sponsor whose principal business location is outside the jurisdiction of the public owner/operator and which utilizes fewer than 500 hotel room nights.
- (3) Local event. – An exhibition or event planned, coordinated, financed, and promoted by a local sponsor which utilizes fewer than 500 hotel room nights.
- (4) Local sponsor. – An organization the principal business location of which is located within the jurisdiction of the public owner/operator, with a membership of at least 100 businesses and individuals, with at least ten percent (10%) of its membership being composed of local businesses or individuals subject to the taxing authority of the public owner/operator, and with an annual budget averaged over the preceding three years of no less than one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000).
- (5) Public owner/operator. – A city government subject to Chapter 160A of the General Statutes or a county government subject to Chapter 153A of the General Statutes with a population, as measured in the most recent census, of at least 100,000 and no more than 300,000 or regional authorities comprised of two or more city or county governments representing a cumulative population of at least 250,000 and no more than 500,000 that own or operate a publicly owned convention facility.
- (6) Publicly owned convention facility. – A convention or civic center facility for which at least fifty percent (50%) of the cost of construction was paid for, or guaranteed, by public funds, including, without limitation, special purpose or general obligation bonds.



1 **SECTION 2.** Publicly Owned Convention Center Booking Policy. – Any public
2 owner/operator shall promulgate and enforce booking policies for its publicly owned
3 convention facility which accommodate the needs of local sponsors. Such booking policies
4 shall provide a higher priority category for local events than for external events. This
5 requirement shall not be interpreted to require priority for local events over priority categories
6 based on utilization of 500 or more hotel room nights. Any booking policy and any
7 management agreement entered into by the public owner/operator shall require:

8 (1) That a priority category be created for local events, distinct from external
9 events.

10 (2) That the priority category for local events provide at a minimum that local
11 events cannot be blocked by tentative scheduling of other local events or
12 external events.

13 (3) That black-out periods be limited to periods of 30 days or less before and
14 after the event for local events and external events.

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