

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 192  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H192-PCS80117-TA-2

Short Title: Allow ROW Usage in Central Business Districts.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 4, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PERMIT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO ENACT SIDEWALK DINING  
3 ORDINANCES FOR USE OF STATE-OWNED RIGHT-OF-WAY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S.136-18(9) reads as rewritten:

6 "(9) To employ appropriate means for properly selecting, planting and protecting  
7 trees, shrubs, vines, grasses or legumes in the highway right-of-way in the  
8 promotion of erosion control, landscaping and general protection of said  
9 highways; to acquire by gift or otherwise land for and to construct, operate  
10 and maintain roadside parks, picnic areas, picnic tables, scenic overlooks  
11 and other appropriate turnouts for the safety and convenience of highway  
12 users; and to cooperate with municipal or county authorities, federal  
13 agencies, civic bodies and individuals in the furtherance of those objectives.  
14 None of the roadside parks, picnic areas, picnic tables, scenic overlooks or  
15 other turnouts, or any part of the highway right-of-way shall be used for  
16 commercial purposes except (i) ~~for~~ for any of the following:

- 17 a. ~~materials~~ Materials displayed in welcome centers in accordance with  
18 G.S. 136-89.56, and (ii) ~~for~~ G.S. 136-89.56.  
19 b. ~~vending~~ Vending machines permitted by the Department of  
20 Transportation and placed by the Division of Services for the Blind,  
21 Department of Health and Human Services, as the State licensing  
22 agency designated pursuant to Section 2(a)(5) of the  
23 Randolph-Sheppard Act (20 USC 107a(a)(5)). The Department of  
24 Transportation shall regulate the placing of the vending machines in  
25 highway rest areas and shall regulate the articles to be dispensed.  
26 Every other use or attempted use of any of these areas for  
27 commercial purposes shall constitute a Class 1 misdemeanor and  
28 each day's use shall constitute a separate offense.  
29 c. Activities permitted by a local government pursuant to an ordinance  
30 meeting the requirements of G.S. 136-27.4."

31 **SECTION 2.** Article 2 of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes is amended by  
32 adding a new section to read:

33 "**§ 136-27.4. Use of certain right-of-way for sidewalk dining.**

34 (a) The Department may enter into an agreement with any local government permitting  
35 use of the State right-of-way associated with components of the State highway system and  
36 located within the zoning jurisdiction of the local government for sidewalk dining activities.



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1 For purposes of this section "sidewalk dining activities" means serving food and beverages  
2 from a restaurant abutting State right-of-way to customers seated in the State right-of-way. The  
3 agreement between the Department and the local government shall provide that the local  
4 government is granted the administrative right to permit sidewalk dining activities that, at a  
5 minimum, comply with all of the following requirements and conditions:

- 6 (1) Tables, chairs, and other furnishings shall be placed a minimum of six feet  
7 from any travel lane.
- 8 (2) Tables, chairs, and other furnishings shall be placed in such a manner that at  
9 least five feet of unobstructed paved space of the sidewalk, measured from  
10 any permanent or semi-permanent object, remains clear for the passage of  
11 pedestrians and provides adequate passing space that complies with the  
12 Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 13 (3) Tables, chairs, and other furnishings shall not obstruct any driveway,  
14 alleyway, building entrance or exit, emergency entrance or exit, fire hydrant  
15 or standpipe, utility access, ventilations areas, or ramps necessary to meet  
16 accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- 17 (4) The maximum posted speed permitted on the roadway adjacent to the  
18 right-of-way to be used for sidewalk dining activities shall not be greater  
19 than 45 miles per hour.
- 20 (5) The restaurant operator shall provide evidence of adequate liability  
21 insurance in an amount satisfactory to the local government, but in no event  
22 in an amount less than the amount specified by the local government under  
23 G.S. 160A-485 as the limit of the local government's waiver of immunity or  
24 the amount of Tort Claim liability specified in G.S. 143-299.2, whichever is  
25 greater. The insurance shall protect and name the Department and the local  
26 government as additional insureds on any policies covering the business and  
27 the sidewalk activities.
- 28 (6) The restaurant operator shall provide an agreement to indemnify and hold  
29 harmless the Department or the local government from any claim resulting  
30 from the operation of sidewalk dining activities.
- 31 (7) The restaurant operator shall provide a copy of all permits and licenses  
32 issued by the State, county or city, including health and ABC permits, if any,  
33 necessary for the operation of the restaurant or business, or a copy of the  
34 application for the permit if no permit has been issued. This requirement  
35 includes any permits or certificates issued by the county or city for exterior  
36 alterations or improvements to the restaurant.
- 37 (8) The restaurant operator shall cease part or all sidewalk dining activities in  
38 order to allow construction, maintenance, or repair of any street, sidewalk,  
39 utility, or public building, by the Department, the local government, its  
40 agents or employees, or by any other governmental entity or public utility.
- 41 (9) Any other requirements deemed necessary by the Department, either for a  
42 particular local government or a particular component of the State highway  
43 system.

44 A local government given the administrative right to permit sidewalk dining activities under  
45 this section may impose additional requirements on a case-by-case basis, and nothing in this  
46 section requires the local government to issue or maintain any permit for sidewalk dining  
47 activities if, in the opinion of the local government, such activities cannot be conducted in a  
48 safe manner. Nothing in this section requires the Department to give a local government the  
49 right to establish a permit program for sidewalk dining activities if in the opinion of the  
50 Department, such activities cannot be conducted in a safe manner.

1       **(b)** A municipality applying to the Department for administrative rights under this  
2 section shall:

3           **(1)** Enact an ordinance consistent with, but not necessarily limited to, the  
4 requirements of this section.

5           **(2)** For applications along a federal-aid route or where the laws of the United  
6 States otherwise require, obtain permission from the Federal Highway  
7 Administration to permit the right-of-way to be used for the sidewalk  
8 dining."

9       **SECTION 3.** This act shall not preempt or override local ordinances currently in  
10 place.

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