

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 591  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H591-PCS30361-RW-19

Short Title: Cities/Public Trust Areas.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 6, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CITIES TO REGULATE CERTAIN STRUCTURES THAT  
3 UNREASONABLY RESTRICT THE PUBLIC'S RIGHTS TO USE THE STATE'S  
4 OCEAN BEACHES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 160A-205 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 160A-205. Cities enforce ordinances within public trust areas.

8 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 113-131 or any other provision of law, a city  
9 may, by ordinance, define, prohibit, regulate, or abate acts, omissions, or conditions upon the  
10 State's ocean beaches and prevent or abate any unreasonable restriction of the public's rights to  
11 use the State's ocean beaches. In addition, a city may, in the interest of promoting the health,  
12 safety, and welfare of the public, regulate, restrict, or prohibit the placement, maintenance,  
13 location, or use of structures that are uninhabitable and without water and sewer services for  
14 more than 60 days, as determined by the city with notice provided to the owner of record of the  
15 determination by certified mail at the time of the determination, equipment, personal property,  
16 or debris upon the State's ocean beaches. A city may enforce any ordinance adopted pursuant to  
17 this section or any other provision of law upon the State's ocean beaches located within or  
18 adjacent to the city's jurisdictional boundaries to the same extent that a city may enforce  
19 ordinances within the city's jurisdictional boundaries. A city may enforce an ordinance adopted  
20 pursuant to this section by any remedy provided for in G.S. 160A-175. For purposes of this  
21 section, the term "ocean beaches" has the same meaning as in G.S. 77-20(e).

22 (b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (i) limit the authority of the State or any  
23 State agency to regulate the State's ocean beaches as authorized by G.S. 113-131, or common  
24 law as interpreted and applied by the courts of this State; (ii) limit any other authority granted  
25 to cities by the State to regulate the State's ocean beaches; (iii) deny the existence of the  
26 authority recognized in this section prior to the date this section becomes effective; (iv) impair  
27 the right of the people of this State to the customary free use and enjoyment of the State's ocean  
28 beaches, which rights remain reserved to the people of this State as provided in G.S. 77-20(d);  
29 (v) change or modify the riparian, littoral, or other ownership rights of owners of property  
30 bounded by the Atlantic Ocean; or (vi) apply to the removal of permanent residential or  
31 commercial structures and appurtenances thereto from the State's ocean ~~beaches~~-beaches,  
32 except as provided in subsection (a) of this section."

33 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.



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