Planning and Development Regulation Legal Update

August 25, 2020



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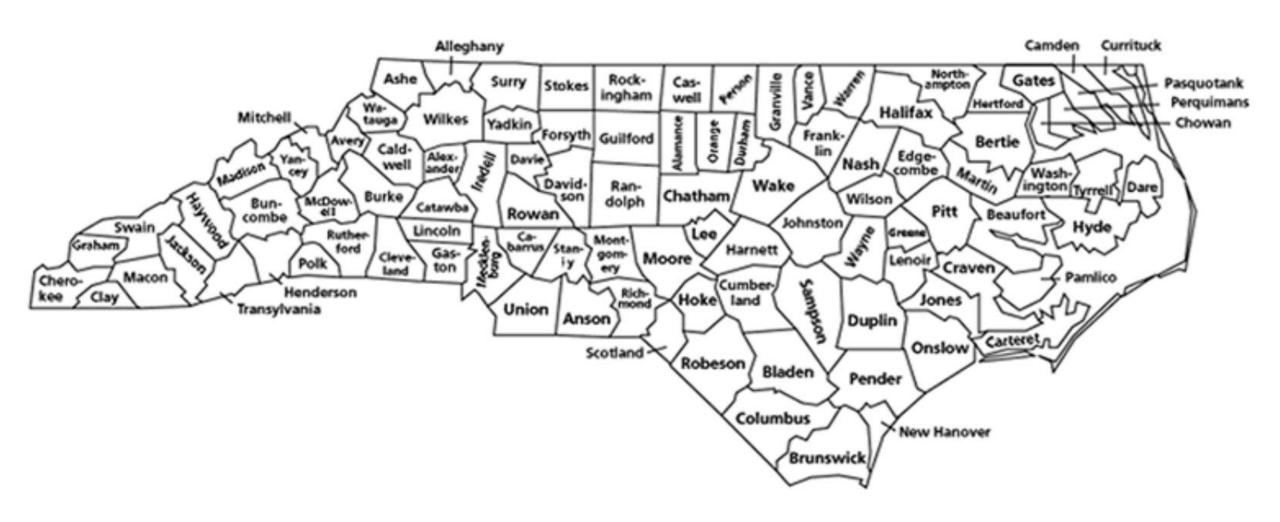
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Where are you?





Continuing Education Credit

AICP: 1.5 hours Legal CM #9203262

CZO: 1.5 hours

- Introduction
- 160D Amendments (S.L. 2020-25)
- New Chapter 160D Resources
- COVID Bills
- Utility Provisions
- Farm Bill
- Case Update



Chapter 160D Developments

- 1) New Effective Date
- 2) 2019 Legislation Integrated
- 3) Modest Clarifications and Technical Corrections

Chapter 160D -- Original Effective Date

- Effective date of Jan. 1, 2020
- General Statutes Commission directed to study and report to 2020
 General Assembly legislation to make necessary adjustments prior to effective date:
 - Integrate Part I into Part II
 - Incorporate other 2019 amendments to affected statutes
 - Make other technical, clarifying, corrective amendments
- Allow time for cities and counties to make conforming ordinance amendments



Chapter 160D -- Effective Date

If GSC bill not adopted, Ch. 160D is effective 1/1/20 without other 2019 amendments being incorporated, so . . .

COVID Stop-gap/Insurance Bill

- S.L. 2020-3 (S. 704) enacted on May 4, 2020
 - 1) Delayed Ch. 160D effective date to 8/1/21 to allow time for adoption of GSC bill in 2021 session
 - Authorize immediate use of incorporation of state/federal maps by reference (not codified)
 - 3) Understanding that change in effective date would be repealed if GSC bill adopted in 2020



Chapter 160D -- Effective Date

General Statutes Commission

- Final report and bill approved in May
- Implementing bill: S. 720
- Enacted:

S.L. 2020-25, effective June 19, 2020



GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION

REPORT TO THE
2020 REGULAR SESSION
of the
2019 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF NORTH CAROLINA
ON
INCORPORATING LAND-USE LAWS ADOPTED IN 2019
INTO CHAPTER 160D OF THE GENERAL STATUTES AS
REQUIRED BY S.L. 2019-111

MAY 7, 2020



Chapter 160D -- New Effective Date

- Repeals delay created in COVID stopgap bill
- Makes Ch. 160D effective immediately June 19, 2020
- BUT adds six months for local conforming amendments
 Can be done now, but must be done by 7/1/21
 160D not applicable in individual city or county until that is done
- No change in date for having an adopted plan to retain zoning authority (7/1/22)



Chapter 160D -- Effective Date

Practical Effect

For an individual city or county,

Ch. 160D becomes fully effective (and Ch. 153A/160A provisions repealed) when:

- (1) it updates its development regulations OR
- (2) on July 1, 2021

Whichever happens first



Chapter 160D -- Integrates 2019 Legislation

Integrates Part I of original 2019 bill into Part II (160D)

Part I amendments to Ch. 153A/160A became effective in July 2019. Adds these to appropriate 160D provisions

- No third party down-zoning
- Limits conditions on conditional zoning/SUPs
- Permit choice amendments in GS 143-755 -- permits on hold, appeals, definitions
- Vested rights refinements rewrite of 160D-108 (multiple permits, process to claim), add 160D-108.1 for site-specific vesting plans
- Judicial review limit estoppel claims, attorney fees, direct appeal of some claims

https://www.sog.unc.edu/sites/www.sog.unc.edu/files/reports/20190500 PZ LB28 v8.pdf



Chapter 160D -- Integrates 2019 Legislation

Also integrates other 2019 enacted legislation

- H. 675 No regulation of minimum house size in zoning or subdivision regs, limit on mandates for burial of existing power lines, building code amendments
- H. 131 Official map act repeal
- S. 313 Clarify performance guarantees relative to improvements required in plat approvals

Chapter 160D -- Clarifications

- Allow LUP as well as comprehensive plan to qualify for the plan required to retain zoning authority
- City zoning must be citywide, county partial zoning still allowed (but no 640-acre minimum)
- Local permit approvals may last longer than one year
- Specify type of hearings required legislative, quasi-judicial, or administrative



Chapter 160D -- Clarifications

Reinsert inadvertently omitted statutes

- County receive funds for streets in ETJ
- Receivership for dilapidated houses
- 10 year enforcement for nonconformities
- No restrictive covenants for family care homes

Correct cross-references

More language clean-up (less legalese)



Chapter 160D -- Clarifications

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Chapter 160D

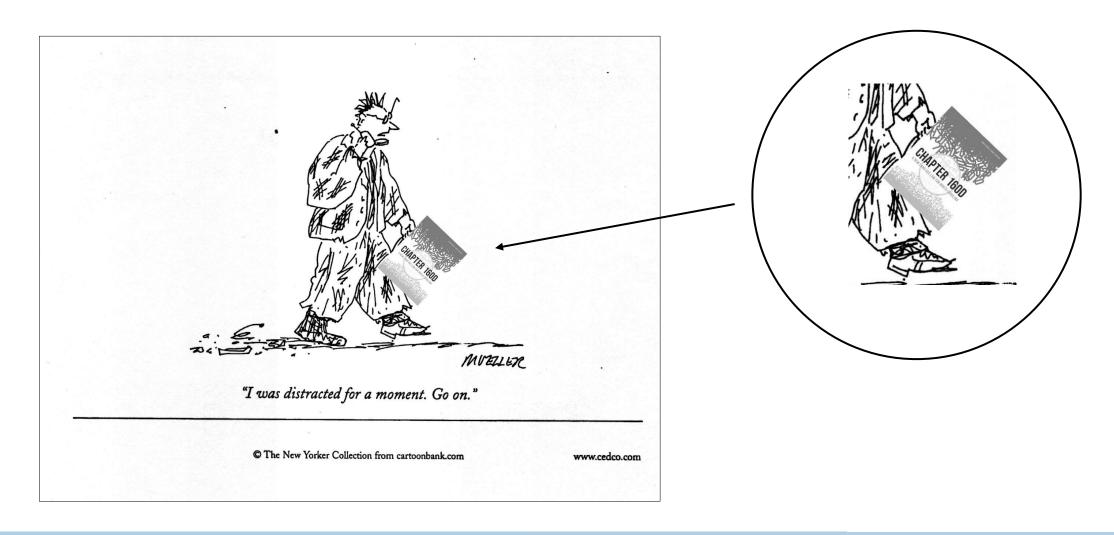
2020 updates now included in SOG web page

- Chapter 160D text with 2020 amendments incorporated
- Updates charts
 - 160D to 160A/153A
 - 160A/153A to 160D

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Planning in a Pandemic

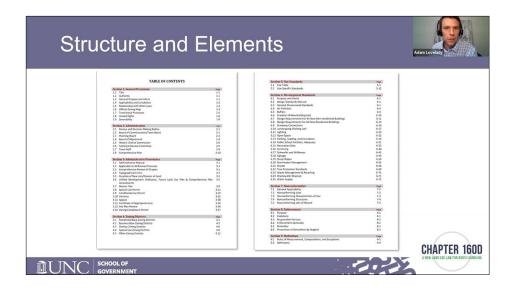




Introduced in 20 Introduced in 20 Introduced in 20 Introduced in 20 Enacted as Par 355) CHAPTER 160D A NEW AND USE LAW FOR NORTH CAROLINA ONLINE MODULE SERIES

Intro Video Modules

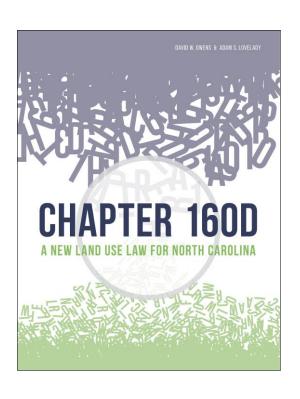
Just Getting Started?

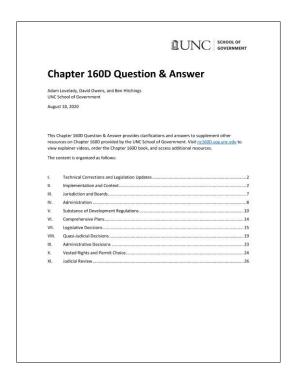


Jumpstart Workshop



Digging into the Details?





MUNC SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT Location of Prior Statutes in Chapter 160D Updated to August 17, 2020 CHAPTER 160A CHAPTER 153A CHAPTER 160D ARTICLE I § 160A-1. Application and meaning of term § 160A-2. Effect upon prior laws. 153A-2 153A-3 160D-102: 111 160D-800 153A-5 160D-111 ARTICLE 18 § 160A-361. Planning boards. 160D-102; 103; 1o6; 502 160D-601 153A-348 160D-1405 § 160A-364.1. Statute of limitations 153A-324

Book

A&Q

Crossover Tables



Drafting Ordinance Updates?



G.S. Chapter 160D Checklist of Changes to Local Ordinances, Policies, and Practices

August 2020 Update

This checklist outlines provisions in the new Chapter 1600 of the North Carolina General Statutes (hereinafter G.S.) as well as related statutory changes that will be incorporated into Chapter 1600. The changes to the statutes affect the language of local ordinances, the options for local decision processes, and the administrative practices related to development regulations.

This checklist is one piece of a larger set of resources and training materials, including an explanatory book, *Chapter 180D*. A *New Land Use Law for North Carolina*. Each theem on this checklist is described more thoroughly in those additional resources. Section headers in this checklist note the corresponding chapter and section of the Chapter 1600 book [in brackets]. Check <a href="https://doi.org/10.1600/j.new.org/10

The checklist has specific notations, which are accompanied by specific icons, as follows:

- □ Denotes legislative changes for which local governments must take action (statutory citations are in parentheses) (<u>Many changes may already be reflected in the local ordinance. If so, no additional change is necessary for the ordinance.</u>
- Denotes permissive legislative changes for which local governments may take action
 Denotes notable legislative changes that do not require local action but of which local governments
 must be negree.

Session Law 2020-25 LSB. 720 amended Chapter LSOD to incorporate other lepislative changes from 2019 and make technical corrections. Those changes are notion in this updated between law law parameters and continuous control of the control of th

+-to-tems-noted-with an asteria, local governments do not have authority for the change until annual 2,2021, under good policies and the change of the changes may be incorporated into ordinances and policies, but they must not be effective until 2021. All other-changes may be adopted and effective immediately.

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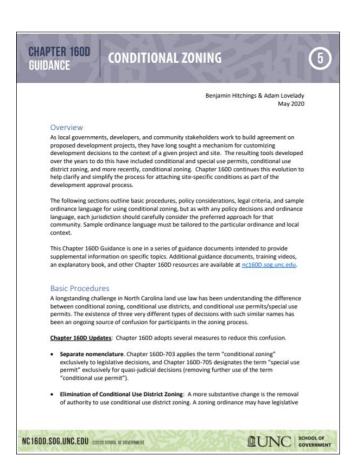
Checklist



Office Hours



160D Guidance Documents



- 1. Administrative Modifications
- 2. Incorporating Maps by Reference
- 3. Conflicts of Interest
- 4. Plan Consistency Statements
- 5. Conditional Zoning
- 6. Permit Choice
- 7. Vested Rights



160D Guidance Documents

CHAPTER 160D GUIDANCE CONDITIONAL ZONING Benjamin Hitchings & Adam Lovelady

Overview

As local governments, developers, and community stakeholders work to build agreement on proposed development projects, they have long sought a mechanism for customizing development decisions to the context of a given project and site. The resulting tools developed over the years to do this have included conditional and special use permits, conditional use district zoning, and more recently, conditional zoning. Chapter 160D continues this evolution to help clarify and simplify the process for attaching site-specific conditions as part of the development approval process.

The following sections outline basic procedures, policy considerations, legal criteria, and sample ordinance language for using conditional zoning, but as with any policy decisions and ordinance language, each jurisdiction should carefully consider the preferred approach for that community. Sample ordinance language must be tailored to the particular ordinance and local context.

This Chapter 160D Guidance is one in a series of guidance documents intended to provide supplemental information on specific topics. Additional guidance documents, training videos, an explanatory book, and other Chapter 160D resources are available at nt.160D.sog.unc.edu.

Basic Procedures

A longstanding challenge in North Carolina land use law has been understanding the difference between conditional zoning, conditional use districts, and conditional use permits/special use permits. The existence of three very different types of decisions with such similar names has been an ongoing source of confusion for participants in the zoning process.

Chapter 160D Updates: Chapter 160D adopts several measures to reduce this confusion.

- Separate nomenclature. Chapter 160D-703 applies the term "conditional zoning" exclusively to legislative decisions, and Chapter 160D-705 designates the term "special use permit" exclusively for quasi-judicial decisions (removing further use of the term "conditional use permit").
- Elimination of Conditional Use District Zoning: A more substantive change is the removal
 of authority to use conditional use district zoning. A zoning ordinance may have legislative

NC 160D. SOG. UNC. EDU (02020 SCHOOL OF BOVERNMENT

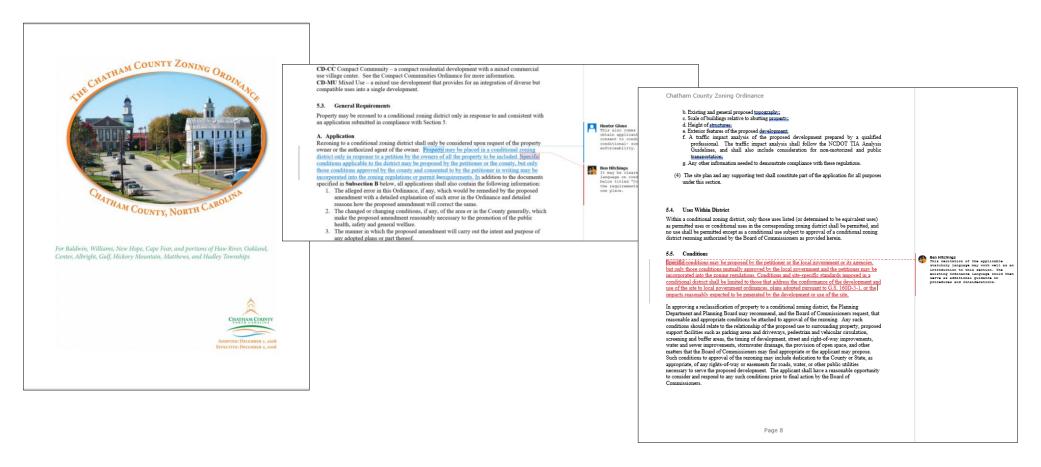


Sections:

- 1. Overview
- 2. Basic Procedures
- 3. Key Considerations
- 4. Statutory Authorization
- 5. Sample Ordinance Language
- 6. Example Ordinance Provisions



Need a Code Scan?



To learn more, email Ben Hitchings at hitchings@sog.unc.edu



SOG 160D Website

160D.sog.unc.edu



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COVID-19 Bills and Local Development Regulations

- Chapter 160D Extension
- Maps Incorporated by Reference
- Permit Extension
- Zoning Hearings



Permit Extension

SL 2020-3 (SB 704), Sec. 4.40

Five-month extension qualifying development approvals

Qualifying Development Approvals

- valid at some point between March 10, 2020 and April 28, 2020
- Types
 - erosion and sedimentation control plans;
 - building permits;
 - sketch plans, preliminary plats, or final plats;
 - site-specific development plans or phased development plans;
 - development permits;
 - development agreements; and
 - certificates of appropriateness.



Obligations of Approval Holder

- Comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies in effect at the time of the development approval
- Maintain all performance guarantees for the duration of the extension or until affirmatively released
- Complete any infrastructure necessary to obtain a certificate of occupancy or other final development approval



Termination and Appeal

- Local gov may terminate approval for failure to comply with terms of extension
- Written notice of reason for termination
- Appealed to board of adjustment



Exclusions

- Extend a permit from the federal government nor a permit for which the duration is set by federal law
- Shorten any development approvals
- Prohibit extensions of development approvals
- Affect Department of Environmental Quality administrative consent orders between the May 4 and September 28, 2020
- Prevent agencies from revoking or modifying a development approval
- Modify requirements necessary to retain federal delegation
- Modify obligations or rights under contract, including bond obligations or rights
- Authorize charging water or wastewater tap fees that have previously been paid in full.



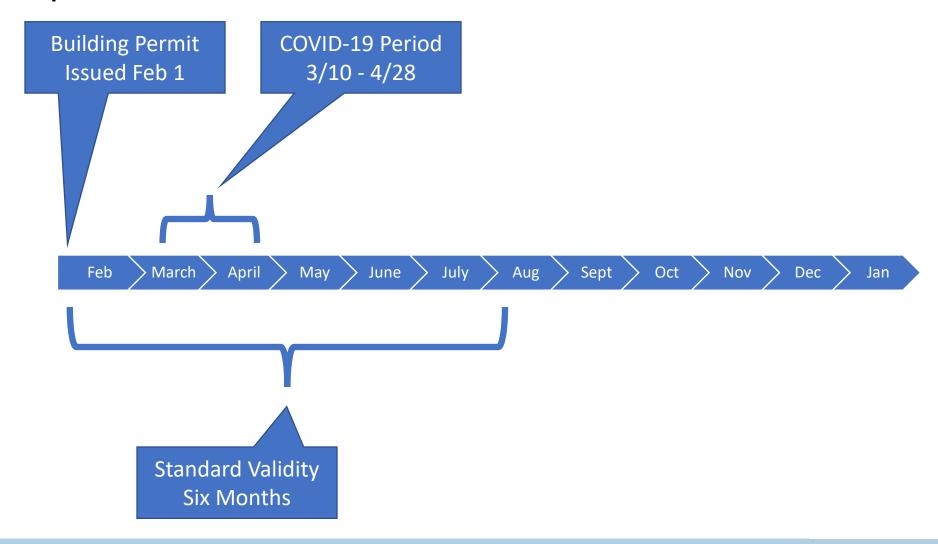
Expiration?

• Section 4.40(g) states that the approval extension law expires September 28, 2020

Sample Permit Extension

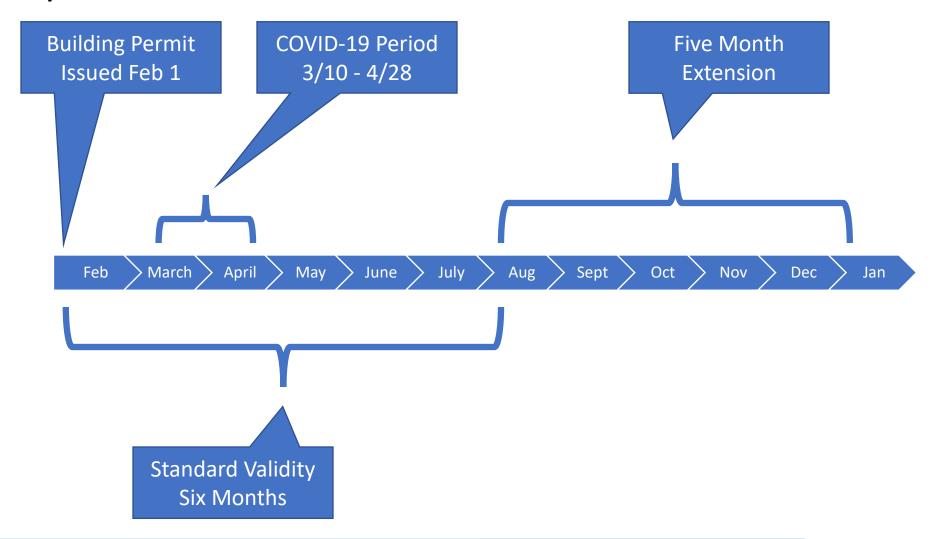


Sample Permit Extension





Sample Permit Extension





Remote Zoning Hearings during Declared Emergency



Remote Zoning Hearings during Declared Emergency

- SL 2020-3 (SB 704), Section 4.31(a), creating G.S. 166A-19.24
- Public Hearings
 - Zoning Amendment
 - Rezoning
- Quasi-Judicial Evidentiary Hearings
 - Special Use Permits
 - Variances
 - Appeals of Staff Decisions
 - Certificates of Appropriateness



Remote Zoning Public Hearings

 must allow written comments on the subject of the public hearing to be submitted between publication of notice and 24 hours after the public hearing

Remote Quasi-Judicial Evidentiary Hearings

Three conditions required:

 The right of an individual to a hearing and decision occur during the emergency.

 All persons with standing have notice and consent to the remote meeting.

All due process rights of the parties affected are protected.



Right of an individual to a hearing and decision occur during the emergency.

 under normal circumstances, the hearing would have occurred during the time of the declared emergency



All persons with standing have notice and consent to the remote meeting.

G.S. 160A-393 on who has standing

- the applicant
- owner
- local government (if decision being appealed)
- individual who will suffer special damages (or association)

Challenge of identifying and obtaining consent



All due process rights of the parties affected are protected.

Rights include, among other things, right to

- Present evidence
- Object to opposing evidence
- Cross-examine witnesses
- Challenge the impartiality of the decision-maker



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System Development Fees – Time of Collection

• S.L. 2020-61 (H.B. 873)

- Was collected at time the local government committed water or sewer service or at the time of plat recordation
- New provision allows fee to be collected at the time of application for a building permit rather than plat recordation
- May require coordination between permitting authorities (proof of payment before building permits)



System Development Fees – Use of Funds

• S.L. 2020-61

 In certain circumstances, fees may be used toward previously completed capital improvements and toward capital rehabilitation projects



Sewer Lines for Accessory Dwellings

• S.L. 2020-61 (H.B. 873)

 If principal sewer line is permitted according to certain standards, then the shared sewer connection is deemed permitted without additional application or fee

Environmental Management Commission to adopt rules consistent with statute



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2020 Farm Bill

S.L. 2020-18 (S. 315)

Adds hunting, fishing, and equestrian activities to "agritourism" that is exempt from county zoning

Does <u>not</u> add shooting ranges, as was included in 2019 version of the Farm Bill

Cannot require permit to provide catering services if catering business is on bona fide farm

Farm sign can be 3' x 3', on any property owned or leased by owner or lessee of the farm



Regulatory Reform Bill

S.L. 2020-74 (H. 308)

Adds Farm Bill amendments to Ch. 153A to Ch. 160D

Does <u>not</u> include provisions in 2019 version of bill on zoning of temporary event venues, manufactured home set-up, or aquaculture in flood hazard areas



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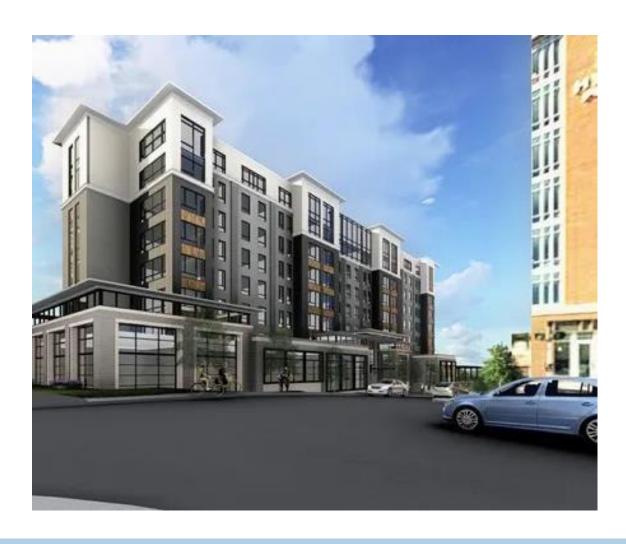


Quasi-Judicial Special Use Permit

PHG Asheville, LLC v. City of Asheville



SUP Request



Special use permit for hotel and parking structure in downtown

185 rooms

200-space adjacent parking deck

SUP Request

- Evidentiary hearing included five witnesses, including three experts, who testified in support of the application
- No evidence offered in opposition
- Technical Review Committee, Downtown Commission, and Planning and Zoning Commission all recommended approval
- City council denied the CUP, finding that the developer failed to produce competent, material, and substantial evidence to meet the standards



Standard of Review

de novo review to the question of whether the developer presented competent, material, and substantial evidence to establish a prima facie case

Issue is sufficiency of the evidence presented – burden of production to establish *prima facie* entitlement



Board Member Concerns

What if board members have doubts about the validity of expert testimony?

- Questions about methodology used?
- Concern about factors not addressed in study?
- Desire to see additional factors and data considered?
- Concern about credibility of expert witness?



Board Member Concerns

Expert testimony can only be rebutted by competent, material, and substantial evidence to the contrary

Board can consider member's knowledge of facts, but they must be relevant to the standards in the ordinance



Traffic

Questions from lay board member about methodology

Days of week, month chosen for traffic counts

Queuing at nearby intersections

Impact of hill on sight lines

Issues not within the scope of ordinance standards cannot be basis for denial – factors to consider, data/analysis required

Where the TIA prepared in accordance with professional standards, it cannot be rebutted by lay opinions of board



Property Values

Board questions/concerns:

Impacts of other recently completed/planned hotels

Where the appraisal report was prepared in accordance with professional standards and directly addressed the applicable standard, it cannot be rebutted by lay opinions of board



Harmony

When a use is allowed as a conditional use that is the equivalent to a legislative finding that the use is in harmony with the area. (Woodhouse)

Result

For SUP, if applicant presents competent, material, and substantial evidence that all of the standards are met, they are entitled to approval

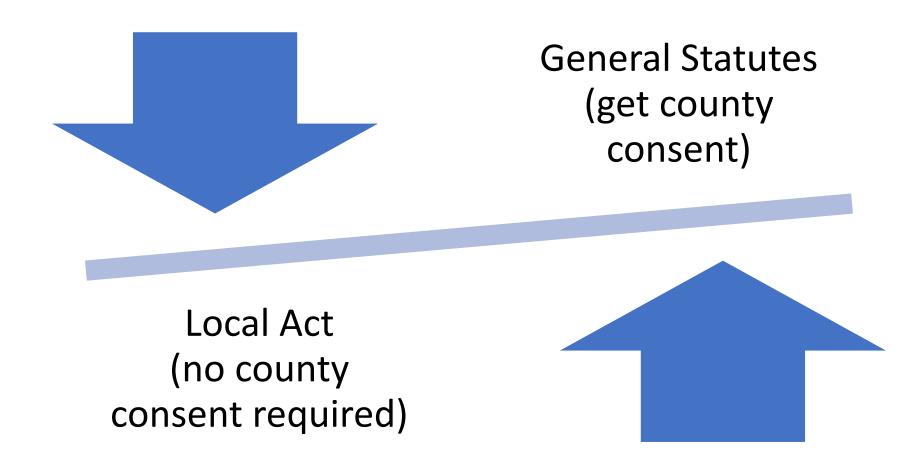
Must have contrary credible evidence to the contrary in order to deny. Board member misgivings, doubts, concerns are inadequate to support a denial



Town of Pinebluff v. Moore County



ETJ Rules





Court of Appeals

- Irreconcilable conflict
- More recent legislation controls

NC Supreme Court

- "we disfavor any interpretation that repeals by implication another portion of the statute"
- local provision must still be read in context with the other requirements for ETJ



Starlites Tech Corporation v. Rockingham County



Timeline

- MM&K obtains zoning permit (Starlites names as applicant and occupant)
- New ordinance restrictions adopted
- MM&K transfers ownership to Starlites
- Complaints and notice of violation against Starlites



Is it a nonconforming use?

- "[a] lot, structure or land use that is inconsistent with current zoning requirements, but which was entirely lawful when it was originally established."
- "When any nonconforming use of a structure is discontinued for a period of one year, any future use of the structure shall be limited to those uses permitted in that district under the provisions of this ordinance. Vacancy and/or non-use of the building, regardless of the intent of the owner or tenant, shall constitute discontinuance under this provision."
- Change in ownership is not change in use (Graham Court Associates v. Chapel Hill)



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