

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 588

Short Title: Amend Wilmington Charter/Land Use.

(Local)

Sponsors: Representative Wright.

Referred to: Local and Regional Government I.

March 25, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
2 RELATING TO SITE PLAN REVIEW AND AUTHORIZING ADOPTION OF A
3 UNIFIED LAND USE ORDINANCE.
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. The Charter of the City of Wilmington, being Chapter 495 of the
7 1977 Session Laws, as amended, is amended by adding a new section to read as
8 follows:

9 "Sec. 23.12. Site Plans.

10 (a) The City Council may require as part of its zoning regulations that a site plan
11 be prepared, submitted, and approved prior to the issuance of any building permit for
12 new construction, excluding renovation and repair of existing structures, and excluding
13 accessory uses and their structures, unless the renovations and repairs and accessory
14 uses shall cause an increase in the off-street parking requirement or a change in
15 occupancy as occupancy is defined by the North Carolina State Building Code. Such
16 ordinance shall specify the elements to be included in site plans submitted for approval
17 in accordance with standards of the applicable ordinances; such elements may include,
18 where appropriate, those relating to off-street parking, driveway access, internal
19 circulation, screening, signs, landscaping, architectural features, locations and
20 dimensions, topography and grading, utilities, drainage structures, open space and
21 recreation areas, street and sidewalk improvements, loading and service areas, fire
22 hydrants, and such other elements as may reasonably be related to the health, safety, and
23 general welfare of the community. Where appropriate, approval of site plans may be
24 conditioned to include requirements that street and utility rights-of-way and recreational

1 space be dedicated to or reserved for the public, or street, utility, or other improvements
2 be made to the same extent as required by local subdivision regulations. The
3 regulations may also provide for the payment in lieu of the dedication of property and
4 rights-of-way or construction of improvements to the same extent as required by local
5 land use regulations. This provision shall not apply to additions of less than five percent
6 (5%) of gross floor area on an annual basis unless such addition causes an increase in
7 the off-street parking requirement or a change in occupancy as occupancy is defined by
8 the North Carolina State Building Code.

9 (b) The City Council shall prescribe procedures for review and approval of site
10 plans to ensure that development of property shall conform to applicable zoning or other
11 relevant laws or regulations, with approvals by designated City staff. Appeal shall lie
12 from the staff to the Board of Adjustment or the City Council. The City Council may
13 require that site plans be in conformity with previously approved subdivision plans or
14 conditional use permits for the same property. In the event of a conflict between a
15 requirement for site plan approval and requirements for previously approved
16 subdivision plans or special or conditional use permits, the latter shall control."

17 Sec. 2. The Charter of the City of Wilmington, being Chapter 495 of the
18 1977 Session Laws, as amended, is amended by adding a new section to read as
19 follows:

20 "Sec. 23.13. Unified Land Use Ordinance Authorized.

21 The City Council may adopt a unified land use or development ordinance, which
22 combines into one document zoning, subdivision, and other regulations authorized or
23 referenced under Article 19 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes and the
24 Wilmington City Charter. The ordinance may treat subdivision preliminary plat
25 applications in the same manner as special or conditional use permits."

26 Sec. 3. This act is effective upon ratification.