

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

H

1

HOUSE BILL 2500\*

Short Title: Electronics Recycling Amends/Add TVs. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Allen, Gibson, Samuelson (Primary Sponsors);  
Alexander and Harrison.

Referred to: Environment and Natural Resources.

May 26, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPUTER EQUIPMENT  
MANAGEMENT ENACTED BY S.L. 2007-550 TO (1) CLARIFY THAT THE  
PROGRAM APPLIES ONLY TO COMPUTER EQUIPMENT DISCARDED BY  
CONSUMERS IN THE STATE AND (2) ADD TELEVISIONS DISCARDED BY  
CONSUMERS IN THE STATE TO THE EQUIPMENT THAT MUST BE  
RECOVERED FOR REUSE OR RECYCLING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes reads as  
rewritten:

"Part 2E. Discarded Television and Computer Equipment Management.

**"§ 130A-309.90. (Effective January 1, 2009) Findings.**

The General Assembly makes the following findings:

- (1) The ~~computer~~ electronics equipment waste stream is growing rapidly in volume and complexity and can introduce toxic materials into solid waste landfills.
- (2) It is in the best interests of the citizens of this State to have convenient, simple, and free access to recycling services for discarded televisions and computer equipment.
- (3) Collection programs operated by local government and nonprofit agencies are an efficient way to divert discarded televisions and computer equipment from disposal and to provide recycling services to all citizens of this State.
- (4) The development of local and nonprofit collection programs is hindered by the high costs of recycling and transporting discarded televisions and computer equipment.

- 1 (5) No ~~other~~ comprehensive system currently exists, either provided by  
2 electronics manufacturers, retailers, or others, to adequately serve all  
3 ~~citizens~~ consumers of the State and to divert large quantities of  
4 discarded televisions and computer equipment from disposal.
- 5 (6) Manufacturer responsibility is an effective way to ensure that  
6 manufacturers of televisions and computer equipment take part in a  
7 solution to the electronic waste problem.
- 8 (7) The recycling of discarded televisions and computer equipment  
9 recovers valuable materials for reuse and will create jobs and expand  
10 the tax base of the State.

11 **"§ 130A-309.91. (Effective January 1, 2009) Definitions.**

12 As used in this Part, the following definitions apply:

- 13 (1) Business entity. – Defined in G.S. 55-1-40(2a).
- 14 (2) Computer equipment. – Any desktop central processing unit, any  
15 laptop computer, the monitor or video display unit for a computer  
16 system, and the keyboard, mice, and other peripheral equipment.  
17 Computer equipment does not include a printing device such as a  
18 printer, a scanner, a combination print-scanner-fax machine, or other  
19 device designed to produce hard paper copies from a computer; an  
20 automobile; a television; a household appliance; a large piece of  
21 commercial or industrial equipment, such as commercial medical  
22 equipment, that contains a cathode ray tube, a cathode ray tube device,  
23 a flat panel display, or similar video display device that is contained  
24 within, and is not separate from, the larger piece of equipment, or other  
25 medical devices as that term is defined under the federal Food, Drug,  
26 and Cosmetic Act.
- 27 (2a) Consumer. – Any occupant of a single detached dwelling unit or a  
28 single unit of a multiple dwelling unit who owns or possesses a  
29 television or item of computer equipment primarily for personal or  
30 home business use.
- 31 (3) Discarded television and computer equipment. – ~~Computer~~ Television  
32 and computer equipment that is solid waste.
- 33 (4) Discarded television and computer equipment collector. – A municipal  
34 or county government, nonprofit agency, or retailer that accepts  
35 discarded television and computer equipment from ~~the~~  
36 public consumers.
- 37 (5)(5a) Manufacturer of computer equipment. – A person who  
38 manufactures computer equipment sold under its own brand or label;  
39 sells under its own brand or label computer equipment produced by  
40 other suppliers; imports into the United States computer equipment  
41 that was manufactured outside of the United States; or owns a brand  
42 that it licenses to another person for use on computer equipment.  
43 Manufacturer includes a business entity that acquires another business  
44 entity that manufactures or has manufactured computer equipment.

- 1           (5b) Manufacturer of televisions. – Any existing person: (i) who  
2           manufactures or manufactured televisions under a brand that it owns or  
3           owned or is or was licensed to use, other than a license to manufacture  
4           televisions for delivery exclusively to or at the order of the licensor;  
5           (ii) who sells or sold televisions manufactured by others under a brand  
6           that the seller owns or owned or is or was licensed to use; or (iii) for  
7           whose account televisions, manufactured outside the United States, are  
8           or were imported into the United States, provided, however, if at the  
9           time the televisions are or were imported into the United States,  
10           another person has offered to collect the televisions under a recovery  
11           plan pursuant to this section, then this clause (iii) shall not apply.  
12           (6) Orphan discarded televisions and computer equipment. – Any  
13           discarded televisions and computer equipment for which a  
14           manufacturer cannot be identified or for which the manufacturer is no  
15           longer in business and has no successor in interest.  
16           (7) Retailer. – A person who sells televisions and computer equipment in  
17           the State to a consumer. Retailer includes a manufacturer of televisions  
18           and computer equipment that sells directly to a consumer through any  
19           means, including transactions conducted through sales outlets,  
20           catalogs, the Internet, or any similar electronic means, but does not  
21           include a person who sells televisions and computer equipment to a  
22           distributor or retailer through a wholesale transaction.  
23           (8) Television. – A stand-alone display system containing a cathode ray  
24           tube or any other type of display primarily intended to receive video  
25           programming via broadcast, having a viewable area greater than nine  
26           inches measured diagonally, able to adhere to standard consumer video  
27           formats and having the capability of selecting different broadcast  
28           channels and supporting sound capability.

29 **"§ 130A-309.92. (Effective January 1, 2009) Responsibility for recycling televisions**  
30 **and discarded computer equipment.**

31       In addition to the specific requirements of this Part, discarded television and  
32       computer equipment collectors and manufacturers share responsibility for the recycling  
33       of discarded televisions and computer equipment and the education of ~~citizens~~  
34       of ~~consumers~~ in the State as to recycling opportunities for discarded televisions and  
35       computer equipment. (2007-550, s. 16.1(a).)

36 **"§ 130A-309.93. (For effective dates, see note) Requirements for manufacturers.**

37       (a) Registration and Fee Required. – Each manufacturer of televisions and  
38       manufacturer of computer equipment, before selling or offering for sale televisions and  
39       computer equipment in North Carolina, shall register with the Department and, at the  
40       time of registration, shall pay an initial registration fee of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)  
41       to the Department. A manufacturer of televisions and manufacturer of computer  
42       equipment ~~computer equipment manufacturer~~ that has registered shall pay an annual  
43       renewal registration fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to the Department. The annual  
44       renewal registration fee shall be paid each year no later than the first day of the month

1 in which the initial registration fee was paid. The proceeds of these fees shall be  
2 credited to the Television and Computer Equipment Management Account. A  
3 manufacturer of televisions and manufacturer of computer equipment that sells 1,000  
4 items of computer equipment or less per year is exempt from the requirement to pay the  
5 registration fee and the annual renewal fee imposed by this subsection.

6 (b) Manufacturer Label Required. – A manufacturer shall not sell or offer to sell  
7 televisions and computer equipment in this State unless a visible, permanent label  
8 clearly identifying the manufacturer of that device is affixed to the equipment.

9 (c) Televisions and Computer Equipment Recycling Plan. – Each manufacturer  
10 of televisions and manufacturer of computer equipment shall develop and submit to the  
11 Department a plan for reuse or recycling of discarded televisions and computer  
12 equipment from consumers in the State produced by the manufacturer. The  
13 manufacturer shall submit a proposed plan to the Department within 120 days of  
14 registration as required by subsection (a) of this section. The plan shall:

- 15 (1) Describe any direct take-back program to be implemented by the  
16 manufacturer, including mail-back programs and collection events.
- 17 (2) Provide that the manufacturer will take responsibility for ~~discarded~~  
18 televisions and computer equipment it manufactured discarded by  
19 consumers in the State.
- 20 (3) Include a detailed description as to how the manufacturer will  
21 implement and finance the plan.
- 22 (4) Provide for environmentally sound management practices to transport  
23 and recycle discarded televisions and computer equipment.
- 24 (5) Describe the performance measures that will be used by the  
25 manufacturer to document recovery and recycling rates for discarded  
26 televisions and computer equipment. The calculation of recycling rates  
27 shall include the amount of discarded televisions and computer  
28 equipment managed under the manufacturer's program divided by the  
29 amount of televisions and computer equipment sold by the  
30 manufacturer in North Carolina.
- 31 (6) Describe in detail how the manufacturer will provide for transportation  
32 of discarded televisions and computer equipment at no cost from  
33 discarded computer equipment collectors.
- 34 (7) Describe in detail how the manufacturer will fully cover the costs of  
35 processing discarded televisions and computer equipment received  
36 from discarded televisions and computer equipment collectors.
- 37 (8) Include a public education plan on the laws governing the recycling  
38 and reuse of discarded televisions and computer equipment under this  
39 Part and on the methods available to consumers to comply with those  
40 requirements.

41 (d) Televisions and Computer Equipment Recycling Plan Revision. – A  
42 manufacturer may prepare a revised plan and submit it to the Department at any time as  
43 the manufacturer considers appropriate in response to changed circumstances or needs.

1 The Department may require a manufacturer to revise or update a plan if the  
2 Department finds that the plan is inadequate or out-of-date.

3 (e) Payment of Costs for Plan Implementation. – Each manufacturer is  
4 responsible for all costs associated with the development and implementation of its  
5 plan. A manufacturer shall not collect a charge for the management of discarded  
6 televisions and computer equipment at the time the equipment is ~~discarded~~discarded by  
7 consumers.

8 (f) Joint Television and Computer Equipment Recycling Plans. – A manufacturer  
9 may fulfill the requirements of this section by participation in a joint recycling plan with  
10 other manufacturers. A joint plan shall meet the requirements of subsection (c) of this  
11 section.

12 (g) Annual Report. – Each manufacturer shall submit a report to the Department  
13 by 1 February of each year that includes all of the following for the previous calendar  
14 year:

- 15 (1) A description of the collection and recycling services used to recover  
16 the manufacturer's products.
- 17 (2) The quantity and type of computer equipment sold by the  
18 manufacturer to retail consumers in this State.
- 19 (3) The quantity and type of discarded computer equipment collected by  
20 the manufacturer for recovery in this State for the preceding calendar  
21 year.
- 22 (4) Any other information requested by the Department.

23 **"§ 130A-309.94. (Effective January 1, 2010) Requirements for discarded television  
24 and computer equipment collectors.**

25 Each discarded television and computer equipment collector shall ensure that  
26 discarded televisions and computer equipment received by the collector is consolidated  
27 at central locations, properly stored, and either held for pickup by a manufacturer or  
28 delivered to a facility designated by a manufacturer.

29 **"§ 130A-309.95. (Effective January 1, 2009) Responsibilities of the Department.**

30 In addition to its other responsibilities under this Part, the Department shall:

- 31 (1) Develop and maintain a current list of manufacturers that are in  
32 compliance with the requirements of G.S. 130A-309.93 and provide  
33 the current list to the Office of Information Technology Services each  
34 time that the list is updated.
- 35 (2) Develop and implement a public education program on the laws  
36 governing the recycling and reuse of discarded televisions and  
37 computer equipment under this Part and on the methods available to  
38 consumers to comply with those requirements. The Department shall  
39 make this information available on the Internet and shall provide  
40 technical assistance to manufacturers to meet the requirements of  
41 G.S. 130A-309.93(c)(8). The Department shall also provide technical  
42 assistance to units of local government on the establishment and  
43 operation of discarded television and computer equipment collection

1 centers and in the development and implementation of local public  
2 education programs.

- 3 (3) Maintain the confidentiality of any information that is required to be  
4 submitted by a manufacturer under this Part that is designated as a  
5 trade secret, as defined in G.S. 66-152(3) and that is designated as  
6 confidential or as a trade secret under G.S. 132-1.2.

7 **"§ 130A-309.96. (Effective January 1, 2009) Television and Computer Equipment**  
8 **Management Account.**

9 The Television and Computer Equipment Management Account is created as a  
10 nonreverting account within the Department. Funds in the Account shall be used by the  
11 Department to implement the provisions of this Part.

12 **"§ 130A-309.97. (Effective January 1, 2009) Enforcement.**

13 This Part may be enforced as provided by Part 2 of Article 1 of this Chapter.

14 **"§ 130A-309.98. (Effective April 1, 2011) Annual report.**

15 No later than 1 April of each year, the Department shall submit a report on the  
16 recycling of discarded televisions and computer equipment in the State under this Part  
17 to the Environmental Review Commission. The report must include an evaluation of the  
18 recycling rates in the State for discarded televisions and computer equipment, a  
19 discussion of compliance and enforcement related to the requirements of this Part, and  
20 any recommendations for any changes to the system of collection and recycling of  
21 discarded televisions and computer equipment or other electronic devices."

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 130A-309.09A(b)(6) reads as rewritten:

23 "(6) Include an assessment of current programs and a description of  
24 intended actions with respect to:

- 25 a. Education with the community and through the schools.  
26 b. Management of special wastes.  
27 c. Prevention of illegal disposal and management of litter.  
28 d. Purchase of recycled materials and products manufactured with  
29 recycled materials.  
30 e. **(Effective January 1, 2009)** For each county and each  
31 municipality with a population in excess of 25,000, collection  
32 of discarded televisions and computer equipment, as defined in  
33 G.S. 130A-309.91."

34 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 130A-309.10(f) is amended by adding a new subdivision  
35 to read:

36 "(15) Discarded televisions, as defined in G.S. 130A-309.91."

37 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 130A-309.10(f1) is amended by adding a new  
38 subdivision to read:

39 "(8) Discarded televisions, as defined in G.S. 130A-309.91."

40 **SECTION 5.** Section 16.6(b) of S.L. 2007-550 reads as rewritten:

41 **"SECTION 16.6.(b)** Section 16.2 of this act becomes effective 1 January 2009.  
42 Sections 16.3 and 16.4 of this act become effective 1 January 2012. Section 16.5 of this  
43 act becomes effective 1 July 2009. Subsection (b) of Section 16.1 of this act, Section

1 16.6 of this act, and any other provision of Section 16 of this act for which an effective  
2 date is not specified become effective 1 January 2009."

3 **SECTION 6.** Part 2E of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes,  
4 as amended by Section 1 of this act, becomes effective as follows:

- 5 (1) G.S. 130A-309.90 becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 6 (2) G.S. 130A-309.91 becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 7 (3) G.S. 130A-309.92 becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 8 (4) G.S. 130A-309.93(a) becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 9 (5) G.S. 130A-309.93(b) becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 10 (6) G.S. 130A-309.93(c) becomes effective 1 October 2009.
- 11 (7) G.S. 130A-309.93(d) becomes effective 1 October 2009.
- 12 (8) G.S. 130A-309.93(e) becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 13 (9) G.S. 130A-309.93(f) becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 14 (10) G.S. 130A-309.93(g) becomes effective 1 February 2011.
- 15 (11) G.S. 130A-309.94 becomes effective 1 January 2010.
- 16 (12) G.S. 130A-309.95(1) becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 17 (13) G.S. 130A-309.95(2) becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 18 (14) G.S. 130A-309.95(3) becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 19 (15) G.S. 130A-309.96 becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 20 (16) G.S. 130A-309.97 becomes effective 1 January 2009.
- 21 (17) G.S. 130A-309.98 becomes effective 1 April 2011.

22 **SECTION 7.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective 1 January 2009.  
23 Sections 3 and 4 of this act become effective 1 January 2012. Section 5 of this act is  
24 effective when it becomes law. Section 6 of this act, and any other provision of this act  
25 for which an effective date is not specified, become effective 1 January 2009.