

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 379

Short Title: Involuntary Annexation Changes. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Faison, Brown, Boylan (Primary Sponsors); Blackwood, Blust, Dollar, McGee, and Moore.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

February 27, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT AMENDING THE INVOLUNTARY ANNEXATION STATUTES TO REQUIRE THAT AREAS ANNEXED MUST BE CONTIGUOUS TO AREAS OF EQUAL SIZE OR GREATER AND DEVELOPED FOR URBAN PURPOSES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 160A-36 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 160A-36. Character of area to be annexed.**

...

(b) The total area to be annexed must meet the following standards:

(1) It must be adjacent or contiguous to an area within the municipality's boundaries that is of equal size or greater and that has been developed for urban purposes at the time the annexation proceeding is begun, except if the entire territory of a county water and sewer district created under G.S. 162A-86(b1) is being annexed, the annexation shall also include any noncontiguous pieces of the district as long as the part of the district with the greatest land area is adjacent or contiguous to an area within the municipality's boundaries that has been developed for urban purposes at the time the annexation proceeding is begun.

...

(c) The area to be annexed must be developed for urban purposes at the time of approval of the report provided for in ~~G.S. 160A-35~~ G.S. 160A-35 and must be contiguous to an area within the municipality that is of equal size or greater and that has been developed for urban purposes. For purposes of this section, a lot or tract shall not be considered in use for a commercial, industrial, institutional, or governmental purpose if the lot or tract is used only temporarily, occasionally, or on an incidental or insubstantial basis in relation to the size and character of the lot or tract. For purposes of this section, acreage in use for commercial, industrial, institutional, or governmental purposes shall include acreage actually occupied by buildings or other man-made

1 structures together with all areas that are reasonably necessary and appurtenant to such  
2 facilities for purposes of parking, storage, ingress and egress, utilities, buffering, and  
3 other ancillary services and facilities. Area of streets and street rights-of-way shall not  
4 be used to determine total acreage under this section. An area developed for urban  
5 purposes is defined as:

6 ...."

7 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 160A-48 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 160A-48. Character of area to be annexed.**

9 ...

10 (b) The total area to be annexed must meet the following standards:

11 (1) It must be adjacent or contiguous to an area within the municipality's  
12 boundaries that is of equal size or greater and that has been developed  
13 for urban purposes at the time the annexation proceeding is begun,  
14 except if the entire territory of a county water and sewer district  
15 created under G.S. 162A-86(b1) is being annexed, the annexation shall  
16 also include any noncontiguous pieces of the district as long as the part  
17 of the district with the greatest land area is adjacent or contiguous to an  
18 area within the municipality's boundaries that has been developed for  
19 urban purposes at the time the annexation proceeding is begun.

20 ...

21 (c) Part or all of the area to be annexed must be developed for urban purposes at  
22 the time of approval of the report provided for in ~~G.S. 160A-47~~ G.S. 160A-47 and must  
23 be contiguous to an area within the municipality that is of equal size or greater and that  
24 has been developed for urban purposes. Area of streets and street rights-of-way shall not  
25 be used to determine total acreage under this section. An area developed for urban  
26 purposes is defined as any area which meets any one of the following standards:

27 ...

28 (d) In addition to areas developed for urban purposes, a governing board may  
29 include in the area to be annexed any area which does not meet the requirements of  
30 subsection (c) if such area either:

31 (1) Lies between the ~~municipal~~ boundary of an area within the  
32 municipality that has been developed for urban purposes and the  
33 boundary of an area developed for urban purposes so that the area  
34 developed for urban purposes is either not adjacent to the ~~municipal~~  
35 boundary of the area within the municipality that has been developed  
36 for urban purposes or cannot be served by the municipality without  
37 extending services and/or water and/or sewer lines through such  
38 sparsely developed area; or

39 (2) Is adjacent, on at least sixty percent (60%) of its external boundary, to  
40 any combination of the ~~municipal~~ boundary of the area within the  
41 municipality that has been developed for urban purposes and the  
42 boundary of an area or areas developed for urban purposes as defined  
43 in subsection (c).

1       The purpose of this subsection is to permit municipal governing boards to extend  
2 corporate limits from areas already developed for urban purposes to include all nearby  
3 areas developed for urban purposes and where necessary to include areas which at the  
4 time of annexation are not yet developed for urban purposes but which constitute  
5 necessary land connections between the municipality and areas developed for urban  
6 purposes or between two or more areas developed for urban purposes. For purposes of  
7 this subsection, "necessary land connection" means an area that does not exceed  
8 twenty-five percent (25%) of the total area to be annexed.

9       ...."

10       **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to all  
11 annexations, including those that have commenced (evidenced by the passing of a  
12 resolution under G.S. 160A-37(a) or G.S. 160A-49(a)) when this act becomes law but  
13 do not become effective until on or after January 1, 2008.