

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 603

Short Title: Temporary Event Venues. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hardister, Brody, Paré, and Clemmons (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Local Government, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 17, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE A LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT TEMPORARY EVENT  
3 VENUES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Part 1 of Article 9 of Chapter 160D of the General Statutes is amended  
6 by adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 160D-915.1. Temporary event venues authorized.**

8 (a) A local government may, by ordinance, establish a process to permit temporary event  
9 venues as provided in this section. A temporary event shall be one lasting no longer than 72  
10 hours.

11 (b) As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

12 (1) Local government. – A municipality with a population of 100,000 or more  
13 according to the most recent decennial federal census.

14 (2) Temporary event venue. – An existing publicly or privately owned building  
15 or structure suitable for use as a site for public or private events relating to  
16 entertainment, education, marketing, meetings, sales, trade shows, and any  
17 other activities or occasions that the local government may, by ordinance,  
18 authorize.

19 (c) A local government may consider a temporary event venue as a permitted accessory  
20 use in any of its zoning districts. Enactment of a temporary event venue ordinance and issuance  
21 of a temporary event permit under this section shall not be considered a zoning map amendment  
22 under this Article.

23 (d) Only one temporary event venue shall be allowed on a lot or parcel of land. The  
24 temporary event venue permitted under this section shall not require a special use permit or be  
25 subjected to any other local zoning requirements beyond those imposed upon other authorized  
26 accessory use structures, except as otherwise provided in this section. Except as provided in  
27 subsection (h) of this section, for each temporary event venue issued a permit under this section,  
28 no more than 24 temporary events may be conducted in a calendar year.

29 (e) An ordinance authorizing temporary event venues shall set forth the following:

30 (1) The zoning districts within which a temporary event venue may lie.

31 (2) The process a person seeking a temporary event venue permit, or its renewal,  
32 must follow.

33 (3) The specific criteria to be considered by the local government when  
34 determining whether to issue a temporary event venue permit. The criteria



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1 shall include the character of the district in which the permit is sought and the  
2 site's suitability for use as a temporary event venue.

3 (4) The temporary events, not inconsistent with subdivision (b)(2) of this section,  
4 authorized in the venue.

5 (5) The duration of the temporary event venue permit.

6 (6) Any capacity limitations of the temporary event venue.

7 (7) The fee structure for the fees authorized by this section.

8 (8) Any other relevant matters.

9 (f) Any person proposing to operate a temporary event venue shall first obtain a permit  
10 from the local government. The issuance of a temporary event venue permit shall not be  
11 considered a quasi-judicial act. The local government may charge a fee of up to one hundred  
12 dollars (\$100.00) for the initial permit and an annual renewal fee of up to fifty dollars (\$50.00).  
13 Before issuing or renewing a temporary event venue permit, a local government shall conduct an  
14 inspection of the proposed temporary event venue to ensure that the health, safety, and welfare  
15 of the public will not be impaired by attendance at or participation in a temporary event. The  
16 inspection shall address the general structural stability of the temporary event venue, its fire  
17 safety, and whether it has sufficient toilet facilities taking into consideration its capacity. A  
18 temporary event venue may provide temporary toilet facilities and shall not be required to  
19 construct permanent toilet facilities to satisfy the requirements under this subsection.

20 (g) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, a local government may require the  
21 permit applicant to take reasonable measures to address any safety or public health concerns  
22 raised by the inspection conducted under subsection (f) of this section. No permit shall be  
23 required under the North Carolina State Building Code or any local variant approved under  
24 G.S. 143-138(e) for any construction, installation, repair, replacement, or alteration of a  
25 temporary event venue either required by the local government as a result of the inspection  
26 conducted under subsection (f) of this section or undertaken by the permittee to otherwise  
27 improve the temporary event venue. A local government may require use of temporary toilet  
28 facilities at temporary events. Nothing in this section shall be construed to exempt a temporary  
29 event venue from compliance with federal laws, rules, or regulations.

30 (h) Nothing shall preclude a permittee operating under a temporary event venue permit  
31 from seeking a rezoning of the parcel to a zoning district that would allow a permitted use of the  
32 venue for events of the type authorized by a temporary event permit. Any such rezoning  
33 application would be subject to the requirements of this Article. If a rezoning application is  
34 submitted in good faith, a local government may authorize the temporary event venue to hold  
35 more than 24 temporary events in one calendar year while the rezoning is pending. If the  
36 temporary event venue is rezoned, the temporary event venue permit shall become void and the  
37 venue shall operate under all rules, regulations, and requirements of law, including the North  
38 Carolina State Building Code, any local variant under G.S. 143-138(e), and local government  
39 ordinances."

40 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 143-138 reads as rewritten:

41 "**§ 143-138. North Carolina State Building Code.**

42 ...

43 (b23) Exclusion for Temporary Event Venues. – No permit shall be required under the  
44 North Carolina State Building Code or any local variant approved under subsection (e) of this  
45 section for any construction, installation, repair, replacement, or alteration of a temporary event  
46 venue issued a temporary event venue permit under G.S. 160D-915.1.

47 ...."

48 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2023.