



HOUSE BILL 345: Currituck County/Remove Abandoned Vessels

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Local Government	Date:	March 31, 2015
Introduced by:	Rep. Steinburg	Prepared by:	Kristen Harris
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

SUMMARY: *House Bill 345 authorizes Currituck County to remove abandoned vessels from its navigable waters.*

CURRENT LAW: S.L. 2013-182 authorizes Brunswick and Dare Counties to enact ordinances authorizing the removal of abandoned vessels in their navigable waters.

An abandoned vessel is defined as any of the following:

- A vessel moored, anchored, or otherwise located for more than 30 consecutive days in any 180-consecutive-day period without permission of a dock owner.
- A vessel that is in danger of sinking, has sunk, is resting on the bottom, or is located such that it is a hazard to navigation or is an immediate danger to other vessels. The definition, however, excludes shipwrecks and archeological remains in place more than 10 years.

The current procedure for removal includes a notice, hearing, and appeal procedure for the owner.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 345 amends S.L. 2013-182 to include Currituck County.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act is effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND: Similar legislation authorizing Wrightsville Beach to remove and dispose of abandoned vessels was enacted in 2011 (S.L. 2011-82).

