



# HOUSE BILL 141: Promote North Carolina Sawmills.

2021-2022 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Regulatory Reform. If favorable, re-refer to Judiciary 1. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 25, 2021
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Hanig, Sasser, Brody, Greene	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jennifer McGinnis
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H141-CSRI-6		Committee Co-Counsel

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**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) House Bill 141 would direct the Building Code Council to amend the North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings to allow dimension lumber that has not been grade-stamped to be used in the construction of one- and two-family dwellings when (i) the lumber is sold directly by a sawmill to the owner of the dwelling to be constructed, (ii) the lumber otherwise meets or exceeds Code requirements, and (iii) the appropriate code enforcement official reviews the framing of the dwelling to ensure that it meets the Code requirements of the North Carolina Residential Code in all other respects.*

*The PCS would add two criteria that lumber that has not been grade-stamped must meet for use in construction as provided in the bill:*

- *The lumber conforms with product and inspection standards under American Softwood Lumber Standard PS 20.*
- *The lumber is certified by an inspector who is certified by an accredited independent third-party agency of the American Lumber Standard Committee.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings currently requires that all sawn lumber and end-jointed lumber used for load-supporting purposes be identified by a grade mark or certification of inspection issued by a lumber grading or inspection agency.

## **BILL ANALYSIS:**

**Section 1.(a)** of House Bill 141 would define "dimension lumber" for purposes of the bill.

**Section 1.(b)** would direct the Building Code Council to amend the North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings to allow dimension lumber that has not been grade-stamped to be used in the construction of one- and two-family dwellings, if all of the following apply:

- The lumber is sold directly from the sawmill that milled the lumber to the owner of the dwelling to be constructed, or that person's authorized representative.

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- The dimension lumber meets or exceeds the requirements of the Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings other than the requirements that only grade-stamped lumber be used in residential construction.
- The lumber conforms with product and inspection standards under [American Softwood Lumber Standard PS 20](#).
- The lumber is certified by an inspector who is certified by an accredited independent third-party agency of the American Lumber Standard Committee.
- The appropriate code enforcement official reviews the framing of the dwelling to ensure that it meets the requirements of the North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings in all respects other than the requirements that only grade-stamped lumber be used in residential construction. The code enforcement official would not be liable for any structural failure that occurs because of the use of dimension lumber rather than grade-stamped lumber.

**Section 1.(c)** would allow the Building Code Council to adopt temporary rules to implement the act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act would be effective when it becomes law and would expire when the Building Code Council has issued permanent rules substantially similar to Section 1 of this act.

*Chris Saunders and Kyle Evans, Staff Attorneys with the Legislative Analysis Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*