
PASS HOUSE BILL 291!

On behalf of NAIOP of North Carolina, Carolinas Association of General Contractors and NC Realtors, we strongly support Senate passage of HB 291 today. The legislation, which passed the House of Representative on a bipartisan vote, will bring important reforms to local permitting processes that will spur commercial development, economic growth and job creation within our state.

Local building permits are an essential and fundamental requirement for the development, rehabilitation, and improvement of commercial real estate. However, the processes for obtaining these permits can vary by city and county and be cumbersome and costly. These variations lead to uncertainties and delays, which impact the projects financing, cost, and the retention of contractors, construction equipment and other materials.

The passage and enactment of HB 291 will bring important reforms to local permitting procedures that reduce inefficiencies and bring more consistency, accountability and transparency to the process. Basic elements of the bill include:

- A local permitting entity has 21 days in which review the plans.
- During the 21 days, the local entity shall resolve issues associated with the application and may seek additional information from the applicant.
- If additional information is needed or the application must be resubmitted, the permitting entity has 15 days from receipt of the additional information to issue a permit.
- If the local permitting entity is unable to meet the time parameters, the applicant or inspections department may seek approval from a certified third-party (engineer) or the Department of Insurance.

We call on the Senate to strengthen local permitting process by voting **“YES”** on **HB 291**.