

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE DRH80269-LU-67 (3/6)

Short Title: Repeal Cohabitation Law. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Wright.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE LAW THAT PROHIBITS COHABITATION IN THIS STATE.

Whereas, the law prohibiting cohabitation in this State was enacted in 1805; and

Whereas, North Carolina is one of seven states with laws still prohibiting cohabitation; and

Whereas, pursuant to a lawsuit filed in Pender County in 2005, the judge ruled that the "201-year-old" law barring unmarried couples from living together is unconstitutional because it violates an individual's right to liberty under the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Lawrence v. Texas*; and

Whereas, the ruling in Pender County does not have statewide application; and

Whereas, the law prohibiting cohabitation in this State is rarely enforced, and when enforced, it is used primarily in domestic cases by an estranged spouse; and

Whereas, approximately 144,000 unmarried couples currently live together in this State; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 14-184 is repealed.

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.