



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 5596**

February Session, 2008

\*        HB05596ET        030608        \*

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE FREEDOM TO DRY.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008*) (a) For the purposes of this  
2 section, "governing body" means any municipality, political  
3 subdivision of the state, fire district, sewer district, village, beach or  
4 improvement association or any other district or association or any  
5 condominium or cooperative association; and "direct solar energy"  
6 means direct sunlight or ambient outside air warmed by sunlight.

7       (b) No governing body may impose an ordinance, regulation or  
8 other restriction prohibiting the drying of clothes using direct solar  
9 energy through the use of clotheslines, drying racks or other apparatus  
10 in any residential setting.

11       (c) No deed restrictions, covenants, landlord-tenant agreements,  
12 private contracts or similar binding agreements running with the land  
13 shall prohibit, or have the effect of prohibiting, the drying of clothes  
14 using direct solar energy through the use of clotheslines or drying  
15 racks in any residential setting, provided such clotheslines or drying  
16 racks do not affect public safety, including, but not limited to,  
17 hampering access to public buildings or impeding rapid emergency  
18 egress.

19       (d) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this section, a governing body

20 may prohibit the drying of clothes using direct solar energy through  
21 the use of clotheslines or drying racks in any residential setting if (1)  
22 nonpermanent alternatives, such as folding racks, would provide the  
23 same drying service as permanent installations of clotheslines and  
24 supporting structures; (2) functionally equivalent alternate drying  
25 facilities, such as indoor drying rooms, are available, provided said  
26 facilities do not rely on the use of electricity or fossil fuels specifically  
27 for drying; or (3) such prohibitions incorporate aesthetic  
28 considerations, provided such restrictions do not substantially  
29 interfere with access to direct solar energy for drying purposes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2008</i>	New section

**ET**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*