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## Kidge Law

# Development Regulations Start In 1984 Comies

Regional Editor

New Year's Day, symbolic of new beginnings, will also signal the end of unregulated development of North Carolina's mountains.

localized versions of the state law based on a model created by state planners. county, Cherokee, will vote on whether to opt out of state ridge law enacted July 5. Citizens in only one the adjacent valley and 3,000 feet or more in elevation the law, which probibits construction of buildings themselves from such regulations, have adopted a ridge construction ordinances or acting to exempt taller than 40 feet atop ridges at least 500 feet above Twelve other county governments approved Eleven county governments, by not passing loca

body understood it well," said state Sen. R.P. "Bo" Thomas, father of the ridge bill that the finished law that surrounded creation of the ridge law last spring and Community Development planners in cooperation drew barely a whimper, despite the emotional debate most resembles. "I think we got a good law - I think The death of laissez faire mountain development

ing any discipline on anyone else's property," he said are more people in favor of protecting the mountain Any politicians up for election soon will find there "Some people have strange feelings about impos

we got a tough law.

calls "Avery County's abomination" environment and keeping out speculators." Successful speculators creating what Thomas swayed public

opinion toward some land-use regulation. concrete and glass atop Little Sugar Mountain in Sugar Top Condominiums, a 10-story lower of

> cates' symbol of development run amok Avery County, last winter became ridge law advo-

group to propose a state ban on ridge-top high-rises, a Western North Carolina legislators cry that was taken up by environmental groups and Western North Carolina Tomorrow was the first

complex presold quicker than expected and at a Columbia, S.C., had announced higher price than the developers, U.S. Capital Corp. of Ironically, apartments in the 240-unit Sugar Top

ment)," said Don Tomlin, president of U.S. Capital

"We're not bitter about it (the ridge law move-

Avery County, as expected, followed through with ment at Chapel Hill Avery's commissioners passed a with the N.C. Association of County Commissioners, the toughest local controls before the Jan. I deadline. construction anywhere else in the county without ap-League of Municipalities and the Institute of Govern-The county ridge ordinance is based on a model there is only one. Corp., in February. "People perceive value where proval from governing boards. companion ordinance, however, prohibiting high-rise

sons people come to the mountains - no one wants to bwed this (high-rises), it would do away with the rea County communicationer. book at stopscrapers," said Charles VosCasson, Avery "There were many people who felt like if we al

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Commission Chairman John Borang, say nobody, espe Many others, like Cherokee County Manager acc - Turn To Page IA

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# Goodman Says Syrians Treating Him Wel

Jackson on Saturday that he is well treated and needs only a "plane ticket home." ert O. Goodman Jr., held prisoner by Syria for seven the Syrian capital He would not say weeks, told Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Goodman appeared in good DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) - U.S. Navy airman Rob-

Jackson, in Syria on a private visit to make a

scribed as a "slight shoulder distaapparent injuries were what he de-

Goodman appeared in good spirits and good health. His only

that was where he had been held since he was brought to men. He received a letter from his mother, w presented a Bible and a Koran signed in the dale

members.

Jackson's personal physician examined Goodman

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#### Ridge Law

cially state or federal government

someone may do on his own land. should dictate what sort of building

dishes. It doesn't bother me at all." of the law. "I look up on the top of the think that property rights are sa-cred," said Boring, one of two comwhere a man put up two of those TV endum May 8 on whether to opt out ridge from my carport and see missioners who voted to hold a refer-"We've got some out here that

meddling by politicians who have less of a stake than property owners. He said he sees the ridge law as

go to Charlotte, you can't even tell Piedmont law," he said wryly. what time it is (without a watch) "I think they ought to pass a

until noon, 'cause of all the tall build-

Development in Asheville. Natural Resources and Community as well as appearance, said Alan sewer service and airplane hazards dress fire safety, water service, and all alternative ordinances, construction controls. The state law only the visible argument for ridge ang, planner for the Department of But aesthetic considerations are

Caldwell, Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes criteria," Lang said Local governthe partially low-lying counties foot-elevation requirement, as definition of a ridge to drop the 3,000. ments were allowed to amend the "had to review it based on those five Counties seeking local control Transylvama, Henderson

and sedimentation plans; County requires detailed landscaping complete the project; Haywood proof from developers that they can Jackson County requires financial Others embellished the criteria

county governments act as

a position of having to ( set and po troe 11."

of the 24 affected countries ages local governments ston," said Lang heir own controls. Despite the The nature of the h

state ridge law) - the enforce state is not going to enforce a nance," Lang said, even the comfortable enforcing hat takes place will be local." cially the rural counties, o that several of the country allow the state ban to take affect "I think one of

those units violating the law. it simply denies building permits to and set standards for construction have to set up procedures to review state law is that the county does no The advantage in accepting to

to be in enforcing it," Lang said to county how active they are going "It's going to vary from county

#### **Parris**

Continued From Page One

the yolk in them is almost orange They're richer than a hen egg and wild woods and they're speckled the old grouse egg out here in the

only one clutch a year, guinea hens when they're free to roam. And unlike many wild birds that produce lay continuously from May until cold ing your guinea eggs, it's not easy weather sets in. They won't lay in confinement, only "Now, when it comes to gather

raises 'em. They hide their nests in that's favorable to the fellow who "But they don't lay in a fashion



