

April 14, 1999

**S 930. PRES. FARMLANDS/ PROMOTE SMALL FARMS. TO PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF FARMLAND, TO PROMOTE SMALL, FAMILY-OWNED FARMS, AND TO CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF SUBDIVISIONS SUBJECT TO REGULATION UNDER CHAPTER 153A OF THE GENERAL STATUTES.** Amends GS 106-737 to provide that for a farm to qualify for inclusion in a voluntary agricultural district it must not have an animal waste management system having a design capacity of 600,000 pounds steady state live weight or more. Amends GS 106-744(c) to provide that Farmland Preservation Trust Fund monies may be used to purchase farmland development rights and to match county funds to support a director to promote agricultural economic development and improve the economics of small, family owned farms. County matching requirements are: 25% for a county with a countywide farmland protection plan and zoned areas for long term agricultural use; 40% for a county with either a countywide farmland protection plan or zoning for long-term agricultural use; and 50% with neither a plan nor zoning. Amends GS 106-744 to define the contents of a countywide farmland protection plan, including an inventory of existing farming activity, and how the county plans to maintain a viable agricultural community. Amends GS 153A-335 to provide that the definition of a "subdivision" for purposes of county subdivision ordinances does not include the division of land into parcels greater than 50 acres (now, 10) if no street right-of-way dedication is involved. Amendments to Ch. 106 effective July 1, 1999; amendment to GS 153A-335 when the act becomes law.

**Intro. by Kinnaird.**

Ref. to Agriculture

GS 106, 153A