

April 5, 2001

**S 950. AMEND NC CONSTITUTION TO CONSERVE OPEN SPACE.** *TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION, IF APPROVED BY THE VOTERS IN THE 2002 GENERAL ELECTION, TO LEVY AN ADDITIONAL EXCISE TAX ON TRANSFERS OF REAL PROPERTY TO BE USED ONLY TO CONSERVE OPEN SPACE, FARMLAND, AND SURFACE WATERS; TO CREATE THE NORTH CAROLINA OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND CONSERVATION TRUST FUND; AND TO INCREASE THE EXCISE TAX AND CREDIT THESE ADDITIONAL PROCEEDS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA OPEN SPACE AND FARMLAND CONSERVATION TRUST FUND.* Adds (subject to referendum) new Art. XIV, Sec. 6, to the North Carolina Constitution, which would direct the General Assembly to impose an additional excise tax of \$1 on each \$500 of the consideration or value of property conveyed, on each deed, instrument, or writing by which real property is conveyed after Jan. 1, 2003. The proceeds are to be paid to the cited Fund, and are to be used only for grants for planning, acquisition, conservation, and administration of open space and farmland, and grants to finance projects that address water pollution problems and focus on upgrading surface waters, eliminating pollution, protecting and conserving surface waters, including urban drinking water supplies, and establishing a network of riparian buffers and greenways. Adds new GS 13A-242 through 13A-245 establishing the Fund and rules for making grants, which would be available only to state agencies, local government units, or nonprofit corporations whose primary purpose is the conservation, preservation, and restoration of the state's environmental and natural resources. Adds new GS 105-228.30 imposing the new excise tax. Provides for a referendum on the constitutional amendment at the Nov. 2002, elections. Provisions of the act become effective only if the referendum passes.

**Intro. by Odom.**

Ref. to Finance	GS CONST, 105, 113, 113A
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