

April 3, 2003

**S 884. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION-PRESENT USE VALUE. TO ESTABLISH WILDLIFE AND OTHER CONSERVATION LAND AS A SPECIAL CLASS OF PROPERTY SUBJECT TO PRESENT-USE VALUE AND TO MAKE OTHER CHANGES REGARDING PRESENT-USE VALUE.** Makes certain wildlife conservation land eligible for property tax assessment at present-use value rather than market value. Enacts new GS 105-272.2(8) to define qualifying wildlife land as land that is part of a wildlife unit that is actively managed for the conservation of wildlife or other natural resources under a sound management program. Such land includes wasteland that is part of the wildlife unit, but the wasteland included in the unit must be appraised under the use-value schedules as wasteland. A wildlife unit may consist of more than one tract of wildlife land, but at least one of the tracts must meet the requirements of GS 105-277.3(a)(4), and each tract must be under a sound management program. Enacts new GS 105-277.3(a)(4) to add a classification of "wildlife land" as individually owned wildlife land consisting of one or more tracts, one of which consists of at least 10 acres that are managed under a sound management program and are not included in a farm unit. Amends GS 105-277.3(g) to provide that to qualify as being operated under a sound management plan pursuant to that subsection, forestland must be under a plan that includes the use of best management practices for water quality as adopted by the Dep't of Environment and Natural Resources. Amends GS 105-277.4(d) to provide that if property loses its eligibility for present-use value assessment because the property is subject to a bargain sale to certain nonprofits or government agencies, no deferred taxes are due. Amends GS 105-277.4(c) to provide that deferred taxes accrue on property subject to use-value assessment for 10 years (now, 3 years). Effective for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2004.

**Intro. by Hartsell.**

Ref. to	GS 105
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