

March 29, 2007

**H 1264. COST SHARING TIED TO ENERGY AT SWINE FARMS.** Filed 3/29/07. *TO AUTHORIZE COST SHARE FUNDS FOR SWINE FARMS THAT EMPLOY ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES THAT REDUCE THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES OR THAT RESULT IN INCREASED ENERGY PRODUCTION OR EFFICIENCY.* Amends GS 143-215.74(b) to allow funds in the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Control program (nonpoint cost share program) to be provided for the installation of hog farm waste management system technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, produce a renewable energy source, or otherwise reduce energy needs for the hog farm by producing power to be used at the farm or sold over the electricity power grid. Limits funding to 75% of the average cost for each technology, with a maximum of \$125,000 per year to each applicant. Makes conforming change to GS 143-215.74(b)(6).

Enacts new GS 139-4.1 directing the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (commission) to implement and supervise the Environmental Innovation Grants Program for Swine Farms (grant program), the purpose of which is to provide partial funding for the adoption and use of waste management system technologies that do not qualify for funding under the nonpoint cost share program and that are sufficiently new or isolated that their increased use at hog farms in the state would allow for the evaluation of their effectiveness and economic feasibility. Establishes a preference for technologies that reduce greenhouse gases, produce a renewable energy source, or otherwise reduce the farm's energy needs by producing power to be used at the farm or sold over the electricity power grid. Limits state funding to 75% of the average cost for each technology with a maximum of \$75,000 per year to each applicant. Requires the grant program to be reviewed by the Animal and Poultry Waste Management Center of North Carolina State University before being implemented and every year thereafter. Provides that funds in the grant program are to remain until expended. Requires the commission to report on the program to the Environmental Review Commission and the Fiscal Research Division by January 31 of each year. Makes conforming change to GS 139-4(d).

Appropriates \$4 million for 2007-08 from the General Fund to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission for grants for animal waste management system technologies that qualify under the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Control program. Appropriates \$5.5 million for 2007-08 and \$5.5 million for 2008-09 from the General Fund to the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to be used for grants under the Environmental Innovation Grants Program for Swine Farms. Appropriates \$500,000 for 2007-08 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors for the Poultry and Animal Waste Management Center of North Carolina State University for evaluating and reporting on the Environmental Innovation Grants Program for Swine Farms. Effective July 1, 2007.

**Intro. by Tucker.**

GS 139, 143, APPROP