

March 6, 2007

S 569. WILDLIFE CONSERVATION PROPERTY TAX RELIEF. Filed 3/6/07. *TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR QUALIFYING WILDLIFE CONSERVATION LAND.*

Enacts new GS 105-277.14 providing a property tax benefit for conservation land that was formerly taxed at its present-use value as agricultural land, horticultural land, or forestland and is now managed as conservation land under a plan certified by the Wildlife Resources Commission. To qualify, the land must meet specified conditions relating to wildlife and the owner must file a timely application. The property tax benefit is taxation at the value the land would have if it still qualified as agricultural land, horticultural land, or forestland. The difference between the taxes based on this value and the taxes based on the land's true value are a lien on the land and are carried forward as deferred taxes. Three years of deferred taxes become due with interest when the land fails to qualify as conservation land. The deferred taxes do not have to be paid, however, if the property (1) is donated to a nonprofit and qualifies for property tax exclusion as a protected natural area or as historic preservation property or (2) is donated to NC, a NC local government, or the federal government. The statute provides for appeals from decisions of the appraiser regarding qualification of land as conservation land and appraisal of conservation land. Effective beginning with the 2007-08 property tax year.

Intro. by Hartsell.

GS 105