

March 25, 2009

S 896. ANALYSIS OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS. Filed 3/25/09. *TO DIRECT A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMIC ANALYSIS OF THE SCIENTIFIC MERITS OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS, AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FARM, AND UNIVERSITY FIELD LABORATORIES.*

SL 2008-107, Section 9.13, directed the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and the Commissioner of Agriculture to jointly study and develop a comprehensive strategic plan for the management of both: (1) the agriculture research stations that are jointly managed by North Carolina State University (NCSU) and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and (2) the university research farm managed by North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (NC A&T). Provides that this joint study is not to terminate and extends the deadline for submitting a comprehensive strategic plan for the management of the agricultural research stations from May 1, 2009, to April 1, 2010. Effective April 30, 2009.

Directs that there is to be a comprehensive systemic analysis of the scientific merits of the (1) agricultural research stations jointly managed by NCSU and the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (Department), (2) the university research farm managed by NC A&T; and (3) the university field laboratories owned and managed by NCSU. Provides that the analysis is to be conducted to determine whether the entities individually and as a whole meet current and future agricultural research needs efficiently and effectively.

Provides that the costs of conducting the comprehensive systemic analysis is to be jointly funded from funds appropriated to each of the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the 2009-10 fiscal year.

Requires that a 6-member scientific review panel (panel) comprised of members who reside out-of-state to ensure an independent and balanced assessment of the issues to be considered by the panel be selected no later than July 1, 2009. Provides that the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NCSU, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T, and the Commissioner of Agriculture select two members each for the scientific review panel. Specifies issues and topics that the panel should consider in its review. Directs the panel to begin its comprehensive systemic analysis no later than September 1, 2009, and report its results no later than January 1, 2010, to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NCSU, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Chairs of the House Agriculture Committee, the Senate Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee, and the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources.

Requires that the panel's report include findings, recommendations, any legislative proposals, and a projected timeline that might be used to demonstrate accountability or to guide the implementation of any recommendations. Directs the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at NCSU, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at NC A&T, and the Commissioner of Agriculture to consider the panel's report as part of the joint study that they are conducting under SL 2008-107, Section 9.13.

Except as otherwise indicated, effective July 1, 2009.

Intro. by Hartsell.

STUDY