

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

FILED SENATE
Mar 26, 2015
S.B. 572
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE DRS35235-MH-121A (3/22)

Short Title: Agricultural Regulatory Relief. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Cook (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE REGULATORY RELIEF TO FARMERS BY REQUIRING THE
3 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY BRIDGE WEIGHT
4 RESTRICTIONS IN AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND THE REGULATIONS
5 GOVERNING TRANSPORT OF FUEL FOR AGRICULTURAL USE BY FARM
6 VEHICLES; AND BY REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
7 NATURAL RESOURCES TO STUDY REGULATORY BARRIERS TO INCREASING
8 DRAINAGE OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS IMPACTED BY SEA LEVEL CHANGE.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.(a)** DOT Study. – The Department of Transportation shall study the
11 following:

- 12 (1) Weight limits set by the Board of Transportation for bridges on roads
13 serving agricultural areas of the State, including (i) the impact on transport
14 of agricultural products from farms due to additional transportation costs
15 required to detour around weight restricted bridges, (ii) whether this impact
16 is factored into bridge weight limit decisions, and (iii) the impacts on safety
17 and transportation infrastructure were accommodations to be made for
18 agricultural transport in areas of the State where bridge weight restrictions
19 cause a significant hardship either due to the volume of farm products
20 transportation traffic impacted or the length of detours caused by the weight
21 restriction.
- 22 (2) Limits and regulatory barriers on the transportation of fuel for use in
23 agricultural activities to farms and from one farm to another farm, focusing
24 on restrictions with respect to roads and routing in order to comply with
25 vehicle weight limits.

26 **SECTION 1.(b)** Report. – The Department shall report its findings and
27 recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the Joint Legislative Transportation
28 Oversight Committee no later than February 1, 2016.

29 **SECTION 2.(a)** DENR Study. – The Department of Environment and Natural
30 Resources shall study regulatory barriers faced by farmers in counties regulated under Article 7
31 of Chapter 113A of the General Statutes who are impacted by diminished drainage from
32 farmland due to rising sea level and therefore need to increase the pumping of surface water
33 into canals and other man-made drainage structures in order to continue the use of the land for
34 agricultural activity. The report shall include the Department's recommendations for
35 economically viable and environmentally sound methods for sufficient drainage of coastal
36 agricultural lands impacted by rising sea levels.



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1 **SECTION 2.(b)** Report. – The Department shall report its findings and
2 recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the Environmental Review
3 Commission no later than February 1, 2016.

4 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.