

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

FILED SENATE
Feb 5, 2025
S.B. 59
PRINCIPAL CLERK

S

D

SENATE BILL DRS55003-MH-12A

Short Title: Revise Voluntary Ag. District Laws. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Galey, Jackson, and Jones (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS GOVERNING VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL
3 DISTRICTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF
4 ALTERNATIVES FOR LAND USE DECISIONS IMPACTING LANDS IN SUCH
5 DISTRICTS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 106-740 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 106-740. Public hearings on condemnation of farmland.**

9 An ordinance adopted under this Part or Part 3 of this Article ~~may~~shall provide that no State
10 or local public agency or governmental unit may formally initiate any action to condemn any
11 interest in qualifying farmland within a voluntary agricultural district under this Part or an
12 enhanced voluntary agricultural district under Part 3 of this Article until such agency has
13 requested the local agricultural advisory board established under G.S. 106-739 to hold a public
14 hearing on the proposed ~~condemnation~~condemnation that conforms to the following
15 requirements:

- 16 (1) Following a public hearing held pursuant to this section, the board shall
17 prepare and submit written findings and a recommendation to the
18 decision-making body of the agency proposing acquisition.
- 19 (2) The board designated to hold the hearing shall have ~~30~~45 days after receiving
20 a request under this section to hold the public hearing and submit its findings
21 and recommendations to the agency.
- 22 (3) The agency ~~may~~shall not formally initiate a condemnation action ~~while the~~
23 ~~proposed condemnation is properly before the advisory board within these~~
24 ~~time limitations~~until 120 days after the date the local agricultural advisory
25 board submits its findings and recommendations to the agency."

26 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective October 1, 2025, and applies to condemnation
27 actions initiated by any State or local public agency or governmental unit on or after that date.

