

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 126
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H126-PCS40479-CJ-7

Short Title: Revise Voluntary Ag. District Laws.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 17, 2025

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 and rezoning 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~~farmland, or ~~rezone such land~~, within a voluntary agricultural
12 district under this Part or an enhanced voluntary agricultural district under Part 3 of this Article
13 until such agency has requested the local agricultural advisory board established under
14 G.S. 106-739 to hold a public hearing on the proposed ~~condemnation~~condemnation or rezoning
15 that conforms to the following 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 or rezoning action
23 ~~while the proposed condemnation is properly before the advisory board within~~
24 ~~these time limitations~~until 120 days after the date the local agricultural
25 advisory board submits its findings and recommendations to the agency."

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

