

FAILED



**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 257**

AMENDMENT NO. A5
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S257-ANBa-7 [v.7]

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Amends Title [NO]
Second Edition

Date _____, 2025

Senator Smith

1 moves to amend the bill on page 243, lines 44-45, by inserting between the lines:

2 **"AGRICULTURE AND RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

3 **SECTION 10.3.(a)** The General Assembly finds the following:

4 (1) The General Assembly has a commitment to protect North Carolina's working
5 lands and waters, sustaining rural communities, and strengthening food
6 security.

7 (2) By investing in the producers who grow, raise, and harvest our food, the
8 General Assembly is building long-term economic resilience, not for
9 corporations, but for the families and communities who keep this State
10 running.

11 **SECTION 10.3.(b)** Notwithstanding any provision of law or of the Committee
12 Report described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, there is appropriated the nonrecurring
13 sum of thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) from the unappropriated balance of the General
14 Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, to
15 be used as follows:

16 (1) Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to the Agricultural Development and
17 Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. These funds shall be prioritized for farms
18 under 200 acres in size and for counties that use agricultural zoning ordinances
19 to protect working lands from non-agricultural development.

20 (2) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the Rural Agricultural Infrastructure
21 Grant Program. These funds shall be used to support cold storage, processing
22 facilities, and regional food distribution systems that enable small and
23 mid-sized farms to reach markets.

24 (3) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the North Carolina Farm to School
25 Program.

26 (4) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for agricultural workforce development,
27 including apprenticeships and technical training programs in partnership with
28 community colleges and the Cooperative Extensions, focusing on beginning
29 farmers and rural counties experiencing labor shortages.

30 (5) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for a Working Waterfront Infrastructure
31 Fund to assist licensed commercial fishers and aquaculture operators with



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- 1 repairs, construction, and upgrades for docks, storage, and processing
2 facilities necessary for seafood production and market access.
3 (6) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to expand aquaculture training and support
4 through North Carolina Sea Grant at North Carolina State University,
5 community colleges, and coastal extension services, focused on technical
6 assistance, permitting guidance, and sustainable practices.
7 (7) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to support North Carolina seafood-based
8 marketing and promotion, including development of regional branding,
9 direct-to-consumer sales initiatives, and partnerships that highlight the value
10 of local, wild-caught, and farm-raised seafood."; and
11
12 by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____

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and vote information, is available in the
Senate Principal Clerk's Office**