



HOUSE BILL 539: North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Agriculture. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 5, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Dixon, McNeely, Bell, D. Hall	Prepared by:	Chris Saunders
Analysis of:	PCS to Filed Edition H539-CSTQ-8		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) to House Bill 539 would designate the second Wednesday in November of each year as North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day, beginning in 2024. The PCS would also designate the North Carolina Grange as the lead organization for recognition of North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day and direct them to consult with various agricultural groups and develop a plan to raise awareness of and promote the first annual North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day. The Grange would be directed to report on its plan to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources no later than June 30, 2024.*

The PCS makes the following changes from the First Edition:

- *Removes an appropriation, which is currently included in House Bill 259.*
- *Adds North Carolina Cooperative Extension, including representatives from NC State University Extension and NC A&T State University Extension, and the University of Mt. Olive School of Agricultural and Biological Sciences to the list of organizations with which the Grange is directed to consult on the plan.*

CURRENT LAW AND BACKGROUND: Several special days are currently recognized in Chapter 103 of the General Statutes, including American Family Day, Prisoner of War Day, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Fragile X Awareness Day, Lineman Awareness Day, and Wounded Heroes Day.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of the PCS would designate the second Wednesday in November of each year as North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day, beginning in 2024.

Section 2 of the PCS would also designate the North Carolina Grange as the lead organization for recognition of North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day and direct them to develop a plan to raise awareness of and promote the first annual North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day. In developing the plan, the Grange would be directed to consult with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; North Carolina Cooperative Extension, including representatives from NC State University Extension and NC A&T State University Extension; the University of Mt. Olive School of Agricultural and Biological Sciences; North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.; commodity groups and associations including the North Carolina Pork Council, the North Carolina Poultry Federation, and the North Carolina Cattlemen's Association; and any other organizations the Grange deems appropriate.

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Section 3 of the Grange would be directed to report on its plan to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources no later than June 30, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This PCS would be effective when it becomes law.