

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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SENATE BILL 1279*

Short Title: Survey Ag. Water Infrastructure Needs. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Albertson and Hoyle.

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

May 20, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER
3 SERVICES AND THE DIVISION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION IN THE
4 DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONTINUE
5 TO WORK WITH THE FARM BUREAU AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL LEADERS
6 AND ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT
7 AGRICULTURAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS, AS RECOMMENDED BY
8 THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON WATER AND WASTEWATER
9 INFRASTRUCTURE.

10 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

11 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, in
12 conjunction with the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Department of Environment and
13 Natural Resources, Farm Bureau, and the State's other agricultural leaders and organizations is
14 currently in the process of developing a strategic plan for protecting agricultural water
15 resources. The General Assembly directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer
16 Services and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Department of Environment and
17 Natural Resources, to continue to work with the Farm Bureau, farmers, and other agricultural
18 leaders and organizations to develop a plan, to be updated on a regular basis, that will identify
19 agricultural water infrastructure needs that are not accounted for in the Environmental
20 Protection Agency surveys of water and wastewater infrastructure needs. The plan shall also
21 provide a mechanism for reporting the results of the data gathered to the General Assembly in a
22 manner that is helpful in assessing legislative and budgetary issues that the General Assembly
23 may need to address. The plan may also address methods to identify current and future
24 agricultural water use needs and methods to ensure that those needs are met; water conservation
25 practices; and water efficiency measures.

26 The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Division of Soil and
27 Water Conservation, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, shall report to the
28 Legislative Study Commission on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure by November 1, 2010,
29 regarding the development of the plan, the proposed methodology and time frame for
30 implementing the plan, the estimated cost of the plan, and any legislative changes needed to
31 implement the plan.

32 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

