

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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SENATE BILL 169

Short Title: Wayne Regional Research and Ed. Ag. Ctr Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators D. Davis and Pate (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 5, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO DESIGN AND TO CONSTRUCT A NEW
2 REGIONAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION AGRICULTURAL CENTER FACILITY
3 TO BE LOCATED IN WAYNE COUNTY.
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5 Whereas, the Regional Research and Education Agricultural Center to be located in
6 Wayne County will serve as a valuable resource for the agribusiness community in Central and
7 Eastern North Carolina; and

8 Whereas, the Wayne Regional Research and Education Agricultural Center will
9 address the business of agriculture; promote the importance of agriculture; provide a single,
10 convenient location for effective delivery of agriculture-related services; provide a venue for
11 consumer, agriculture-community, and agribusiness education; and will be environmentally
12 unique in its design; and

13 Whereas, the Wayne Regional Research and Education Agricultural Center will
14 accommodate and house the following entities: the North Carolina Cooperative Extension
15 Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Division of Soil and Water Conservation of the
16 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the administration of the Cherry Farm
17 Unit, and the Center for Environmental Farming Systems, which serves North Carolina State
18 University, North Carolina A&T State University, the area office of the federal Natural
19 Resources Conservation Service, and the regional offices of the United States Department of
20 Agriculture; and

21 Whereas, the Wayne Regional Research and Education Agricultural Center will
22 have a positive impact on the economy through biotechnical opportunities, bringing resources
23 to the region, serving the farm community, and creating a value-added incubator center for the
24 farm community; will develop and promote alternative agriculture; will create educational and
25 research opportunities; and will develop a collaborative effort and relationship with Wayne
26 Community College and the University of Mount Olive Agribusiness Center; and

27 Whereas, agriculture represents more than two billion dollars in farm receipts in the
28 six surrounding counties, including Wayne County; and

29 Whereas, the Wayne Regional Research and Education Agricultural Center, a
30 proposed 60,000-square-foot "Green Facility," is estimated to cost eleven million five hundred
31 thousand dollars, and the local government and community will seek funding from various
32 sources from, but not limited to, the State of North Carolina, the Golden Leaf Foundation, and
33 local governments to construct the Center, with Wayne County retaining ownership and being
34 responsible for future operational costs of the facility; Now, therefore,
35 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:



1 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Wayne County the
2 sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the 2015-2016 fiscal year for the capital costs of
3 the proposed Wayne Regional Research and Education Agricultural Center as follows:

- 4 (1) To design and develop schematic drawings and plans for the Wayne
5 Regional Research and Education Agricultural Center facility.
6 (2) To construct the Wayne Regional Research and Education Agricultural
7 Center.

8 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2015.