

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1155

Short Title: Agricultural Disaster Relief Study Commission. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Justus, Rapp (Primary Sponsors); Clary, Coates, Faison, Farmer-Butterfield, Fisher, Folwell, Frye, Haire, Hall, Hilton, Hurley, Johnson, Kiser, McGee, Moore, Parmon, Ray, Stam, Starnes, Steen, Stiller, Thomas, Walend, Walker, and West.

Referred to: Agriculture, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House.

March 29, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CREATE THE AGRICULTURAL DISASTER RELIEF STUDY COMMISSION TO STUDY THE DESIRABILITY AND THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING DISASTER RELIEF TO FARMERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Commission Created. – The Agricultural Disaster Relief Study Commission is created.

SECTION 2.(a) Membership. – The Commission shall consist of 12 members. The Commissioner of Agriculture, or the Commissioner's designee; the Director of the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, or the Director's designee, and, notwithstanding G.S. 128-1, a representative of the United States Department of Agriculture shall serve as ex officio members. The remaining members shall be appointed no later than October 1, 2007, as follows:

- (1) Three members of the House of Representatives, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (2) Three members of the Senate, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- (3) One farmer who has substantial experience as a Christmas tree grower in North Carolina, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (4) One agricultural grower who has substantial experience as a nursery grower in North Carolina, appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

1 (5) One farmer who has substantial experience as an apple grower in
2 North Carolina, appointed by the Speaker of the House of
3 Representatives.

4 **SECTION 2.(b) Vacancies.** – A vacancy in the Commission or as chair of
5 the Commission resulting from the resignation of a member or otherwise shall be filled
6 in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

7 **SECTION 3. Duties of Commission.** – The Agricultural Disaster Relief
8 Study Commission shall study the desirability and feasibility of providing disaster relief
9 to North Carolina farmers. In particular, the Commission shall consider:

10 (1) The general subject of agricultural disaster relief.

11 (2) Previous disaster relief programs that have been specifically designed
12 to assist farmers or that benefited a larger group that included farmers.

13 (3) Whether any other states provide or have provided disaster relief to its
14 farmers.

15 (4) Any other issues the Commission considers to be pertinent to its study.

16 **SECTION 4. Report.** – The Commission may make an interim report to the
17 2008 Regular Session of the 2007 General Assembly. Prior to the convening of the
18 2009 General Assembly, the Commission shall submit a final report of its findings and
19 recommendations, including legislative and funding recommendations, to the 2009
20 General Assembly. The Commission shall terminate upon filing its final report.

21 **SECTION 5. Expenses of Members.** – Members of the Commission shall
22 receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances in accordance with G.S. 120-3.1,
23 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

24 **SECTION 6. Chair; Meetings.** – The President Pro Tempore of the Senate
25 and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each designate one member to
26 serve as cochair of the Commission. The cochairs shall call the initial meeting of the
27 Commission on or before October 15, 2007. The Commission shall subsequently meet
28 upon such notice and in such manner as its members determine. A majority of the
29 members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum. The Commission may meet in
30 the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building upon the approval of the
31 Legislative Services Commission.

32 **SECTION 7. Staff.** – Upon the prior approval of the Legislative Services
33 Commission, the Legislative Services Officer may assign professional and clerical staff
34 and other services and supplies, as needed for the Commission to carry out its duties in
35 an effective manner.

36 **SECTION 8. Cooperation by Government Agencies.** – The Commission
37 may call upon any department, agency, institution, or officer of the State or any political
38 subdivision thereof for data or other assistance.

39 **SECTION 9.** Of the funds appropriated to the General Assembly, the
40 Legislative Services Commission shall allocate funds for the expenses of the
41 Commission established by this act.

42 **SECTION 10.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.