

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 762

Short Title: Farm GPS Coordinates/Photos/Public Records. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Brock, Bingham, B. Jackson (Primary Sponsors); and Pate.

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

May 15, 2014

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROTECT NORTH CAROLINA FARMERS BY PROVIDING THAT THE
3 GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM COORDINATES OF THEIR AGRICULTURAL
4 OPERATIONS ARE NOT PUBLIC RECORDS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE
5 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AWARENESS STUDY COMMISSION.

6 Whereas, agriculture and agribusiness make up the largest industry in North
7 Carolina at 67.4 billion dollars annually; and

8 Whereas, the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission has heard
9 compelling evidence that some groups have fraudulently reported environmental complaints
10 about certain agricultural operations; and

11 Whereas, fraudulent complaints about agricultural operations create an unnecessary
12 burden on both operators and regulatory authorities, thereby unnecessarily raising the cost of
13 food, fiber, and forestry products; and

14 Whereas, these groups have publicized photographs and GPS coordinates of some
15 agricultural operations where operators and their families live on the property without any
16 compelling rationale for doing so; Now, therefore,
17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

18 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 132 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
19 section to read:

20 "**§ 132-1.23. Agricultural operation GPS coordinates and aerial photographs.**

21 (a) Records in the custody of the State containing global positioning system (GPS)
22 coordinates of an agricultural operation are not public records as defined by G.S. 132-1.

23 (b) Records in the custody of the State containing aerial photographs of an agricultural
24 operation are not public records as defined by G.S. 132-1."

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



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