

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**SENATE BILL 2001**

Short Title: Regional Agriculture Center Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors: Senator Kerr.

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Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

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May 28, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO DESIGN AND TO CONSTRUCT A NEW  
3 REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL CENTER FACILITY TO BE LOCATED IN  
4 WAYNE COUNTY.

5       Whereas, the Regional Agricultural Center to be located in Wayne County  
6 will serve as a valuable resource for the agribusiness community in Central and Eastern  
7 North Carolina; and

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

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

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

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

1           Whereas, the Wayne Regional Agricultural Center, a proposed 60,000-  
2 square-foot "Green Facility," is estimated to cost eleven million five hundred thousand  
3 dollars, and the local government and community will seek funding from various  
4 sources from, but not limited to, the State of North Carolina, the Golden Leaf  
5 Foundation, and local governments to construct the Center, with Wayne County  
6 retaining ownership and being responsible for future operational costs of the facility;  
7 Now, therefore,

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Wayne County  
10 the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year for the  
11 capital costs of the proposed Wayne Regional Agricultural Center as follows:

12           (1) To design and develop schematic drawings and plans for the Wayne  
13 Agricultural Regional Center facility based on an assessment of needs  
14 for agriculture service entities completed in 2006.

15           (2) To construct the Wayne Agricultural Regional Center.

16           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.