

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.B. 126  
Feb 13, 2025  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH10058-TQ-15

Short Title: Revise Voluntary Ag. District Laws. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Dixon.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS GOVERNING VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL  
3 DISTRICTS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
4 ALTERNATIVES FOR LAND USE DECISIONS IMPACTING LANDS IN SUCH  
5 DISTRICTS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 106-740 reads as rewritten:

8 "**§ 106-740. Public hearings on condemnation of farmland.**

9 An ordinance adopted under this Part or Part 3 of this Article ~~may~~shall provide that no State  
10 or local public agency or governmental unit may formally initiate any action to condemn any  
11 interest in qualifying farmland within a voluntary agricultural district under this Part or an  
12 enhanced voluntary agricultural district under Part 3 of this Article until such agency has  
13 requested the local agricultural advisory board established under G.S. 106-739 to hold a public  
14 hearing on the proposed ~~condemnation~~condemnation that conforms to the following  
15 requirements:

- 16 (1) Following a public hearing held pursuant to this section, the board shall  
17 prepare and submit written findings and a recommendation to the  
18 decision-making body of the agency proposing acquisition.
- 19 (2) The board designated to hold the hearing shall have ~~30~~45 days after receiving  
20 a request under this section to hold the public hearing and submit its findings  
21 and recommendations to the agency.
- 22 (3) The agency ~~may~~shall not formally initiate a condemnation action ~~while the~~  
23 ~~proposed condemnation is properly before the advisory board within these~~  
24 ~~time limitations until 120 days after the date the local agricultural advisory~~  
25 ~~board submits its findings and recommendations to the agency."~~

26 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective October 1, 2025, and applies to condemnation  
27 actions initiated by any State or local public agency or governmental unit on or after that date.

