

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

FILED SENATE
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PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS35461-TQy-42

Short Title: Constitutional Right to Farm. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Jackson, Barnes, and B. Newton (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT THE
3 RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN FARMING AND FORESTRY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. Article I of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding a
6 new section to read:

7 "**Sec. 39. Right to engage in farming and forestry.**

8 The right of the people to engage in the cultivation of crops, the raising of livestock and
9 poultry, the production of dairy and apiary products, the harvesting of timber, and other practices
10 for the production of agricultural and forestry commodities is a valued and essential part of the
11 State's heritage and shall be forever preserved for the public good, subject only to laws enacted
12 by the General Assembly and rules adopted pursuant to authority granted by the General
13 Assembly."

14 SECTION 2. The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to
15 the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election to be held in November of 2026,
16 which election shall be conducted under the laws then governing elections in the State. Ballots,
17 voting systems, or both may be used in accordance with Chapter 163A of the General Statutes.
18 The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

19 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

20 Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to engage in farming and
21 forestry."

22 SECTION 3. The State Board of Elections shall certify the results of the referendum
23 conducted under Section 2 of this act. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of
24 the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment
25 among the permanent records of that office. If a majority of votes cast on the question are against
26 the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the amendment shall have no effect.

27 SECTION 4. If the certification from the State Board of Elections under Section 3
28 of this act reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment set
29 out in Section 1 of this act, the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act is effective upon
30 certification.

31 SECTION 5. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
32 law.

