

FAILED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
Senate Bill 257

AMENDMENT NO. A5
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

S257-ANBa-7 [v.7]

Page 1 of 2

Amends Title [NO]
Second Edition

Date _____, 2025

Senator Smith

1 moves to amend the bill on page 243, lines 44-45, by inserting between the lines:

2 "**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

3 **SECTION 10.3.(a)** The General Assembly finds the following:

- 4 (1) The General Assembly has a commitment to protect North Carolina's working
- 5 lands and waters, sustaining rural communities, and strengthening food
- 6 security.
- 7 (2) By investing in the producers who grow, raise, and harvest our food, the
- 8 General Assembly is building long-term economic resilience, not for
- 9 corporations, but for the families and communities who keep this State
- 10 running.

11 **SECTION 10.3.(b)** Notwithstanding any provision of law or of the Committee
12 Report described in Section 45.2 of this act to the contrary, there is appropriated the nonrecurring
13 sum of thirty-five million dollars (\$35,000,000) from the unappropriated balance of the General
14 Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, to
15 be used as follows:

- 16 (1) Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to the Agricultural Development and
- 17 Farmland Preservation Trust Fund. These funds shall be prioritized for farms
- 18 under 200 acres in size and for counties that use agricultural zoning ordinances
- 19 to protect working lands from non-agricultural development.
- 20 (2) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the Rural Agricultural Infrastructure
- 21 Grant Program. These funds shall be used to support cold storage, processing
- 22 facilities, and regional food distribution systems that enable small and
- 23 mid-sized farms to reach markets.
- 24 (3) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the North Carolina Farm to School
- 25 Program.
- 26 (4) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for agricultural workforce development,
- 27 including apprenticeships and technical training programs in partnership with
- 28 community colleges and the Cooperative Extensions, focusing on beginning
- 29 farmers and rural counties experiencing labor shortages.
- 30 (5) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for a Working Waterfront Infrastructure
- 31 Fund to assist licensed commercial fishers and aquaculture operators with



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- 1 repairs, construction, and upgrades for docks, storage, and processing
2 facilities necessary for seafood production and market access.
3 (6) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to expand aquaculture training and support
4 through North Carolina Sea Grant at North Carolina State University,
5 community colleges, and coastal extension services, focused on technical
6 assistance, permitting guidance, and sustainable practices.
7 (7) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) to support North Carolina seafood-based
8 marketing and promotion, including development of regional branding,
9 direct-to-consumer sales initiatives, and partnerships that highlight the value
10 of local, wild-caught, and farm-raised seafood."; and
11
12 by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____

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and vote information, is available in the
Senate Principal Clerk's Office**