



HOUSE BILL 378: Amd. Criteria/Certain Ag. Cost-Share Pgms

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Agriculture	Date:	April 21, 2015
Introduced by:	Reps. Whitmire, Holloway, West, Presnell	Prepared by:	Chris Saunders
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H378-CSTQ-10		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 378 would broaden the forms of documentation acceptable for eligibility for participation in two agriculture cost-share programs operated by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, and the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (AgWRAP).*

The PCS makes a technical change to the effective date.

CURRENT LAW: An applicant must provide one of the following forms of documentation to be eligible for participation in the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control or AgWRAP:

- A copy of the farm owner's or operator's federal tax Schedule F (Form 1040) or an equivalent form showing the owner's or operator's profit or loss from farming.
- A copy of the farm's agricultural exemption certificate issued to the farm owner or operator by the Department of Revenue.
- For forestland actively engaged in the commercial growing of trees under a sound management program, a copy of the sound forest management plan.

BACKGROUND: The Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, created, implemented, and supervised by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, is a voluntary program to reduce the input of agricultural nonpoint source pollution into the watercourses of the State.

The AgWRAP program, also implemented and supervised, by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, is a program to identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage; implement best management practices to conserve and protect water resources; increase water use efficiency; and increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS would provide that an applicant for either the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control or AgWRAP may prove his or her eligibility for either program by showing one of the following forms of documentation, which are also used as evidence of bona fide farm status for zoning purposes:

- A farm sales tax exemption certificate issued by the Department of Revenue.
- A copy of the property tax listing showing that the property is eligible for participation in the present use value program.
- A copy of the farm owner's or operator's Schedule F from the owner's or operator's most recent federal income tax return.

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- A forest management plan.
- A Farm Identification Number issued by the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would be effective when it becomes law, and applies to applications submitted or pending on or after that date.