



2015-2016 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 513: North Carolina Farm Act of 2015, Sec. 37: Allow Alternate Forms of Documentation for Participation in Certain Agricultural Cost-Share Programs

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: Sec. 37 of S.L. 2015-263

Date:
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Staff Attorney

SUMMARY: *Sec. 37 of S.L. 2015-263 provides that an applicant for either the Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control or the Agricultural Water Resources Assistance Program (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.*
- *A forest management plan.*
- *A Farm Identification Number issued by the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.*

This section became effective September 30, 2015, and applies to applications submitted or pending on or after that date.

BACKGROUND: The Agriculture Cost Share Program for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control, created, implemented, and supervised by the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (Commission), is a voluntary program to reduce the input of agricultural nonpoint source pollution into the watercourses of the State. The Cost Share Program began as a pilot program in 1984 and was expanded Statewide in 1989.

AgWRAP, also implemented and supervised by the 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. The AgWRAP program was established in 2011.

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