



## SENATE BILL 77: Ag Disaster Fund/Certain Counties.

2019-2020 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	February 20, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Sawyer, Ballard, B. Jackson	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Chris Saunders
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 77 would provide an opportunity for farmers in a county that, between January 31, 2019, and February 15, 2019, was designated under a Presidential or Secretarial disaster declaration, to apply for recovery under the Hurricane Florence Agriculture Disaster Program of 2018.*

**CURRENT LAW AND BACKGROUND:** Section 5.11 of Senate Bill 3 from the 2018 Third Extra Session (S.L. 2018-136) established the Hurricane Florence Agricultural Disaster Program of 2018. Under this program, a farmer could apply for financial assistance from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture's Hurricane Florence Disaster Fund if the farmer (i) experienced a verifiable loss of agricultural commodities planted on or before September 13, 2018, as a result of Hurricane Florence and (ii) the farm is in a county that was designated under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act as a result of Hurricane Florence or included in either a Secretarial Disaster Declaration for Hurricane Florence issued by the United States Secretary of Agriculture or the Presidential Federal Emergency Management Agency Declaration for Hurricane Florence. The original deadline to apply for assistance, with limited exceptions, was December 10, 2018. This act was amended by Senate Bill 823 to allow for recovery under the fund by farmers impacted by Hurricane Michael, and by Senate Bill 827 to extend the application deadline to December 20, 2018.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Senate Bill 77 would provide that a person who experienced a verifiable loss of agricultural commodities due to Hurricane Michael, and whose farm is located in a county that was designated under a Presidential or Secretarial Disaster Declaration as a result of Hurricane Michael between January 31, 2019 and February 15, 2019, is eligible for financial assistance for losses of agricultural commodities under the Hurricane Florence Disaster Fund established in S.L. 2018-136. The Department may accept applications for no more than ten consecutive business days on which the federal government is not partially or fully shut down, beginning on the effective date of this act.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This act is effective when it becomes law and expires on the date the Department has processed all applications validly received during the ten business day application period.

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