



SENATE BILL 77: Ag Disaster Fund/Certain Counties.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	January 28, 2020
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Chris Saunders Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-3		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-3 provided 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.*

This act became effective March 8, 2019, and expired on the date that the Department processed all applications validly received during the ten business day application period.

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: This act provided that a person who experienced a verifiable loss of agricultural commodities due to Hurricane Michael, and whose farm was 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, was eligible for financial assistance for losses of agricultural commodities under the Hurricane Florence Disaster Fund established in S.L. 2018-136. The Department was authorized 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 became effective March 8, 2019, and expired on the date that the Department processed all applications validly received during the ten business day application period.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
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