



SENATE BILL 1081: Constitutional Right to Farm.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Agriculture, Energy, and Environment.	Date:	May 18, 2026
	If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate		
Introduced by:	Sens. Jackson, Barnes, B. Newton	Prepared by:	Chris Saunders
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 1081 would direct that a constitutional amendment be submitted to the qualified voters of the State at a statewide general election to be held in November of 2026 to include language in the State's Constitution to provide that the people of the State have a right to engage in farming and forestry, subject to laws enacted by the General Assembly and rules adopted pursuant to authority granted by the General Assembly.*

BILL ANALYSIS:

Senate Bill 1081 would submit to the voters of North Carolina the question of whether to amend the State's Constitution to include in the Constitution a right of the people to engage in farming and forestry.

The ballot question will be considered at the statewide general election in November 2026, and the ballot question will read:

"Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to engage in farming and forestry."

If approved by a majority of the voters, the amendment would provide that the right of the people to "engage in the cultivation of crops, the raising of livestock and poultry, the production of dairy and apiary products, the harvesting of timber, and other practices for the production of agricultural and forestry commodities" is forever preserved for the public good, and would provide that the right is subject only to laws enacted by the General Assembly and rules adopted pursuant to authority granted by the General Assembly.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The constitutional amendment would become effective upon certification, if approved by a majority of the voters in the State at the statewide general election in November 2026. Except as otherwise provided, the act would be effective when it becomes law.

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