



2025-2026 General Assembly

SENATE BILL 401: NC Farm Act of 2025-2026, Sec. 15: Reduce Penalty for Certain Shellfish Aquaculture Violations.

Analysis of: S.L. 2026-11, Sec. 15

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Section 15 of S.L. 2026-11 (Senate Bill 401) reduces the penalties for certain acts related to shellfish aquaculture operations, from Class A1 misdemeanors to the following penalties:

- A violation for an improperly marked shellfish lease area, a first offense would be a warning ticket, a second offense within a month would be an infraction, and a third offense within a month of the warning ticket would be a Class 3 misdemeanor.
- A violation for operating under an expired aquaculture operation permit that occurs within one month of the expiration of the permit would be a warning ticket.
- A violation for operating under an expired shellfish lease agreement that occurs within one month of the expiration of the agreement would be a warning ticket.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2026, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

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