

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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SENATE BILL 1294*

Short Title: Conserve & Protect Ag Water Resources. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hoyle, Albertson; and Atwater.

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

May 20, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER
3 SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
4 RESOURCES TO DESIGN A COST SHARE PROGRAM TO ASSIST FARMERS AND
5 LANDOWNERS WHO IMPLEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO
6 CONSERVE AND PROTECT WATER RESOURCES RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL
7 USE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON
8 WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.** The General Assembly recognizes the important role that farmers
11 and individual landowners can play in helping to protect current and future water resources.
12 Therefore, the General Assembly directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
13 and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to work with farmers and
14 landowners to encourage voluntary practices that conserve water use, increase the efficiency of
15 private water use, and increase the water storage capacity by landowners. The General
16 Assembly further directs the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the
17 Department of Environment and Natural Resources to jointly design a cost-share program to
18 provide technical and financial support to farmers and landowners who want to implement best
19 management practices to protect water resources related to agricultural use. The Department of
20 Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
21 shall report to the Legislative Study Commission on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure by
22 November 1, 2010, regarding their progress in designing a cost-share program. The report
23 shall include the estimated cost of establishing and maintaining such a program and any
24 legislative changes that may be needed to implement the program.

25 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

