

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



Session 2011

Legislative Fiscal Note

REVISED

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 406 (First Edition)

SHORT TITLE: Voluntary Agriculture Districts.

SPONSOR(S): Representatives Jordan, Hill, Randleman, and Mobley

FISCAL IMPACT					
	Yes ()	No (X)	No Estimate Available ()		
	<u>FY 2011-12</u>	<u>FY 2012-13</u>	<u>FY 2013-14</u>	<u>FY 2014-15</u>	<u>FY 2015-16</u>
REVENUES	0	0	0	0	0
EXPENDITURES	0	0	0	0	0
POSITIONS (cumulative):	0	0	0	0	0
PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) & PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:					
Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services					
Local Register of Deeds					
EFFECTIVE DATE: When it becomes law					

BILL SUMMARY:

House Bill 406 (HB 406), Voluntary Agriculture Districts, amends G.S. 106-737(1) by striking the requirement for farmland to be enrolled in the farm present-use value taxation program to be included in a voluntary agricultural district (VAD). HB 406 simply requires that farmland must be engaged in agriculture as defined in G.S. 106-581.1. HB 406 also adds municipal zoning to the current language regarding meeting applicable county zoning and subdivision regulations. Lastly, HB 406 amends G.S. 121-41 such that revocable conservation agreements entered into for the purpose of enrolling in a VAD are not required to be recorded by the county Register of Deeds.

ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:

HB 406 is not expected to have a fiscal impact on the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services or any other State government agency. The bill neither increases fees nor places additional responsibilities on any State agencies.

Theoretically, HB 406 could have a positive impact on local governments to the extent that revocable conservation easements that are entered into in order to enroll properties in a VAD no longer have to be recorded by the Register of Deeds. However, neither the number of revocable

conservation easements entered into for this purpose nor the cost of recording conservation easements is known, making it impossible to estimate the impact on local governments.

SOURCES OF DATA: Department of Agriculture

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS: None

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