

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

H

D

HOUSE DRH10623-LG-95A* (3/4)

Short Title: Regional Agricultural Center Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Sager.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO DESIGN AND TO CONSTRUCT A NEW
3 REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL CENTER FACILITY TO BE LOCATED IN WAYNE
4 COUNTY.

5 Whereas, the Regional Agricultural Center to be located in Wayne County will
6 serve as a valuable resource for the agribusiness community in Central and Eastern North
7 Carolina; and

8 Whereas, the Wayne Regional Agricultural Center will address the business of
9 agriculture; promote the importance of agriculture; provide a single, convenient location for
10 effective delivery of agriculture-related services; provide a venue for consumer,
11 agriculture-community, and agribusiness education; and will be environmentally unique in its
12 design; and

13 Whereas, the Wayne Regional Agricultural Center will accommodate and house the
14 following entities: North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, the Farm Service Agency,
15 the Division of Soil and Water Conservation of the Department of Environment and Natural
16 Resources, the administration of the Cherry Farm Unit, and the Center for Environmental
17 Farming Systems, which Center for Environmental Farming Systems serves North Carolina
18 State University, North Carolina A & T State University, the area office of the federal Natural
19 Resources Conservation Service, and the regional offices of the United States Department of
20 Agriculture; and

21 Whereas, the Wayne Regional Agricultural Center will have a positive impact on
22 the economy through biotechnical opportunities, bringing resources to the region, serving the
23 farm community, and creating a value-added incubator center for the farm community; will
24 develop and promote alternative agriculture; will create educational opportunities; and will
25 develop a collaborative effort and relationship with Wayne Community College and the Mount
26 Olive College Agribusiness Center; and

27 Whereas, agriculture represents more than two billion dollars in farm receipts in the
28 six surrounding counties, including Wayne County; and

29 Whereas, the Wayne Regional Agricultural Center, a proposed 60,000-square-foot
30 "Green Facility," is estimated to cost eleven million five hundred thousand dollars, and the
31 local government and community will seek funding from various sources from, but not limited
32 to, the State of North Carolina, the Golden Leaf Foundation, and local governments to
33 construct the Center, with Wayne County retaining ownership and being responsible for future
34 operational costs of the facility; Now, therefore,
35 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:



1 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Wayne County the
2 sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year for the capital costs of
3 the proposed Wayne Regional Agricultural Center as follows:

4 (1) To design and develop schematic drawings and plans for the Wayne
5 Agricultural Regional Center facility based on an assessment of needs for
6 agriculture service entities completed in 2006.

7 (2) To construct the Wayne Agricultural Regional Center.

8 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.