

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE DRS75199-LD-95 (03/10)**

Short Title: Funds for Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Albertson.

Referred to:

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION.

3           Whereas, North Carolina's 52,913 farms provide food, fiber, economic activity,  
4 wildlife habitat, natural resource protection, open space, and cultural heritage to North  
5 Carolinians; and

6           Whereas, farms improve the quality of life for all North Carolinians while requiring  
7 little or no public services or infrastructure; and

8           Whereas, agriculture and agribusiness are North Carolina's leading industry,  
9 generating nearly \$71,000,000,000 for the economy and employing one in five members of our  
10 workforce; and

11           Whereas, a productive and stable agricultural sector is important to farm families,  
12 rural communities, local economies, and North Carolina's economic recovery; and

13           Whereas, landowners are looking for a wider range of options to help them develop  
14 sustainable and profitable farms and pass them along to future generations; and

15           Whereas, North Carolina now has 67 voluntary agriculture districts that support  
16 farmland preservation; and

17           Whereas, numerous State and local organizations have passed resolutions to support  
18 the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and nearly one-quarter of  
19 all counties have passed or are currently considering county farmland protection plans; and

20           Whereas, funds appropriated to the Agricultural Development and Farmland  
21 Preservation Trust Fund have been leveraged with funds from federal and local sources to  
22 preserve agricultural land valued in excess of \$55,000,000 since 2005; and

23           Whereas, funds appropriated to the Agricultural Development and Farmland  
24 Preservation Trust Fund have been used to expand and build the agricultural processing  
25 facilities that will benefit small family farms; and

26           Whereas, the United States Department of Agriculture conducts an agricultural  
27 census every five years, and the results of the 2007 census reveal a continuing significant loss  
28 of 600,000 acres in farmland in the State down to 8.5 million acres, compared with 9.1 million  
29 acres in 2002; Now, therefore,

30 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

31           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the North Carolina  
32 Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund under G.S. 106-744 the sum  
33 of four million dollars (\$4,000,000) for the 2009-2010 fiscal year to be used for the acquisition  
34 of agricultural conservation easements or for the preservation of farmland as provided in  
35 Article 61 of Chapter 106 of the General Statutes.



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