

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 896

Short Title: Analysis of Agricultural Research Stations. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hartsell; Albertson, Clodfelter, Stevens, and Weinstein.

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

March 26, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DIRECT A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEMIC ANALYSIS OF THE
SCIENTIFIC MERITS OF THE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATIONS,
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FARM, AND UNIVERSITY FIELD LABORATORIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) A comprehensive systemic analysis of the scientific merits of all of the following shall be conducted for the purpose of determining whether these entities individually and as a whole meet current and future agricultural research needs efficiently and effectively:

- (1) The agricultural research stations that are currently jointly managed by North Carolina State University and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- (2) The university research farm managed by North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.
- (3) The university field laboratories owned and managed by North Carolina State University.

SECTION 1.(b) The analysis under subsection (a) of this section shall be conducted by a scientific review panel, each member of which shall reside out-of-state in order to ensure an independent and balanced assessment of the issues to be considered by the panel. No later than July 1, 2009, the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and the Commissioner of Agriculture shall each select two members of this scientific review panel. This analysis shall not focus on specific commodities or specific facilities, but shall be a comprehensive, systemic review. The scientific review panel shall consider the current research needs of North Carolina State University, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the capacity for teaching and extension activities that the agricultural research stations, agricultural research farm, and university field laboratories provide, and the anticipated future research needs. Specifically, the scientific review panel shall consider all of the following:

- (1) Whether any individual agricultural research station, agricultural research farm, or university field laboratory should be closed.
- (2) Whether any discrete parcels of land that currently comprise part or all of any individual agricultural research station, agricultural research farm, or university field laboratory should be sold for the reason that:
 - a. The parcel is not being used for research.



1 b. The parcel does not provide an important function, such as provide a
2 buffer or provide an area for future expansion of the research station,
3 research farm, or university.

4 (3) Whether to consolidate the management of any or all of the agricultural
5 research stations, agricultural research farm, and university field
6 laboratories.

7 (4) Whether to replace the Central Crops Research Station located in Johnston
8 County with similarly convenient but less commercially valuable property.

9 (5) Any other issue the panel considers pertinent to whether the agricultural
10 research stations, agricultural research farm, and university field laboratories
11 individually and as a whole meet current and future agricultural research
12 needs efficiently and effectively.

13 **SECTION 2.** The scientific review panel under Section 1 of this act shall
14 commence its comprehensive systemic analysis no later than September 1, 2009, and shall
15 report its results no later than January 1, 2010, to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and
16 Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and
17 Environmental Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, the
18 Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Chairs of the House Agriculture Committee, the Senate
19 Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Committee, and the House and Senate
20 Appropriations Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources. The Dean of the College
21 of Agriculture and Life Sciences at North Carolina State University, the Dean of the School of
22 Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State
23 University, and the Commissioner of Agriculture shall consider this report as part of the joint
24 study they are conducting under Section 9.13 of S.L. 2008-107 for the purpose of developing a
25 strategic plan for the management of the agricultural research stations, agricultural research
26 farm, and university field laboratories. The report required under this section shall include
27 findings, recommendations, including recommendations on any land that might be sold,
28 purchased, or transferred and any associated costs, and any legislative proposals. The report
29 shall also include a projected time line that might be used to demonstrate accountability or to
30 guide the implementation of any recommendations.

31 **SECTION 3.** The joint study by the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life
32 Sciences at North Carolina State University, the Dean of the School of Agriculture and
33 Environmental Sciences at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, and the
34 Commissioner of Agriculture under Section 9.13 of S.L. 2008-107 shall not terminate, but shall
35 continue, and the deadline for submitting a comprehensive strategic plan for the management of
36 the agricultural research stations shall be extended until April 1, 2010.

37 **SECTION 4.** The costs of conducting the comprehensive systemic analysis under
38 Section 1 of this act shall be jointly and equally funded from funds appropriated to each of the
39 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the Department of Agriculture
40 and Consumer Services for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

41 **SECTION 5.** Section 3 of this act becomes effective April 30, 2009. The
42 remaining sections of this act become effective July 1, 2009.