

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007**

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SENATE BILL 280*

Short Title: Agribusiness Education Campaign Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Albertson; Apodaca, Atwater, Bingham, Blake, Brown, East, Forrester, Jenkins, Jones, Kerr, Nesbitt, Purcell, Queen, Soles, Stevens, Swindell, Tillman, and Weinstein.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

February 22, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE MATCHING FUNDS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA
AGRIBUSINESS FOUNDATION, INC., TO BE USED TO ESTABLISH THE
AGRIBUSINESS EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.

Whereas, North Carolina agribusiness: food, fiber and forestry, is the number one industry in the State and generates \$68.3 billion, or over 20%, of North Carolina's gross State product; and

Whereas, North Carolina has historically offered agribusiness, which includes producers, processors, suppliers, financiers, transporters, wholesalers, retailers, and various commodity groups, an excellent and productive labor force; and

Whereas, agribusiness employs 631,000 of the State's total workforce; and

Whereas, agribusiness drives the economic engines in local communities: every dollar spent on agriculture turns over an estimated eight times; and

Whereas, North Carolina's State and county governments have demonstrated strong support for new and expanding commercial agriculture enterprises, which can be found generating income and employment in each of our 100 counties; and

Whereas, North Carolina farmers carved from the soil and water a basic economic foundation that would sustain the future growth and progress of this State and that resulted in North Carolina ranking third in the nation in agricultural diversity and total net farm income per acre; and

Whereas, North Carolina farmers toil tirelessly to provide food, clothing, and shelter for our State, our nation, and the world, providing an exceptional value by combining 8.9 billion acres of farmland with labor, money, and ingenuity to produce agribusiness products despite rising production costs; and

Whereas, agriculture production reflects a sensitivity to the environment by investing in practices that protect natural resources while improving food production; and

1 Whereas, North Carolina's 50,000 farms are among the most productive in all
2 of American agriculture; and

3 Whereas, citizens of North Carolina spend less, only 9 1/2% of their income,
4 on food that is safer, healthier, and more convenient than people in other countries; and

5 Whereas, producers of all that grows in North Carolina are meeting the
6 challenge of feeding and furnishing the world's growing population; and

7 Whereas, agricultural products account for 75% of North Carolina's exports;
8 and

9 Whereas, exports generate over 16% of U.S. farm income, offering an
10 ever-expanding market for agricultural products and maximizing revenue potential here
11 at home; and

12 Whereas, it is appropriate for this State's citizens to recognize the many
13 contributions agribusiness makes to our State and our economy; Now, therefore,

14 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

15 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to The North
16 Carolina Agribusiness Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization, the sum of three
17 hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of
18 three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to match
19 private, non-State funds and to be used to establish the Agribusiness Education
20 Campaign.

21 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.