

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 1081
Agriculture, Energy, and Environment Committee Substitute Adopted 5/18/26

Short Title: Constitutional Right to Farm. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 18, 2026

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO PROTECT THE
3 RIGHT TO ENGAGE IN FARMING AND FORESTRY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article I of the North Carolina Constitution is amended by adding a
6 new section to read:

7 "**Sec. 39. Right to engage in farming and forestry.**

8 The right of the people to engage in the cultivation of crops, the raising of livestock and
9 poultry, the production of dairy and apiary products, the harvesting of timber, and other practices
10 for the production of agricultural and forestry commodities is a valued and essential part of the
11 State's heritage and shall be forever preserved for the public good, subject only to laws enacted
12 by the General Assembly and rules adopted pursuant to authority granted by the General
13 Assembly."

14 **SECTION 2.** The amendment set out in Section 1 of this act shall be submitted to
15 the qualified voters of the State at the statewide general election to be held on November 3, 2026,
16 which election shall be conducted in accordance with the laws governing elections at that time.
17 The question to be used in the voting systems and ballots shall be:

18 "[] FOR [] AGAINST

19 Constitutional amendment protecting the right of the people to engage in farming and
20 forestry."

21 **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Elections shall certify the results of the referendum
22 conducted under Section 2 of this act. If a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of
23 the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the Secretary of State shall enroll the amendment
24 among the permanent records of that office. If a majority of votes cast on the question are against
25 the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act, the amendment shall have no effect.

26 **SECTION 4.** If the certification from the State Board of Elections under Section 3
27 of this act reflects that a majority of votes cast on the question are in favor of the amendment set
28 out in Section 1 of this act, the amendment set out in Section 1 of this act is effective upon
29 certification.

30 **SECTION 5.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
31 law.

