

# Agriculture and Wildlife

See full summary documents for additional detail

## **H103 - 2022 Appropriations Act.**

### **Sec. 15.1: Chronic Wasting Disease Report. (SL 2022-74)**

Section 15.1 of S.L. 2022-74 directs the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Fiscal Research Division no later than September 15th of each year in which WRC receives State funds to combat, monitor, or contain an outbreak of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD).

This section became effective July 1, 2022.

## **H103 - 2022 Appropriations Act.**

### **Sec. 15.3: Hunting/Fishing/Boating Contract License Vendors. (SL 2022-74)**

Section 15.3 of S.L. 2022-74 does the following:

- Authorizes the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to contract with a licensing system vendor to build and maintain an enterprise system to support the business functions of the WRC, including the processing of license and vessel transactions.
- Authorizes contracted licensing system vendors to charge the following transaction fees, in addition to any surcharges charged by vessel agents or the WRC, for the processing of vessel transactions:
  - \$3 per transaction for online purchases or other electronic transactions.
  - \$1 per transaction for purchases made through a vessel agent or directly through the WRC.
  - \$5 per transaction for purchases made through the contracted licensing system vendor's call center.
- Increases the transaction fee that license agents and the WRC are authorized to charge for licenses, applications, and permits, from \$2 per transaction to \$4 per transaction.
- Authorizes contracted licensing system vendors to charge the following transaction fees—in addition to any surcharges charged by licensing agents or the WRC—for licenses, permits, applications, and merchandise sold:
  - \$3 per transaction for online purchases or other electronic transactions.
  - \$1 per transaction for purchases made through a license agent or directly through the WRC.
  - \$5 per transaction for purchases made through the contracted licensing system vendor's call center.

This section becomes effective July 1, 2023.

## **S339 - 2022 WRC Amendments. (SL 2022-65)**

S.L. 2022-65 does all of the following:

- Increases penalties for violations of Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) emergency powers or rules exercised to respond to a wildlife disease.
- Reduces fees for a fur dealer license and amend the definition of "dealing in furs."

- Includes public mountain trout waters in the Resident Subsistence Unified Inland/Coastal Recreational Fishing License Waiver.
- Defines the phrase "domestically raised waterfowl and game birds" to mean propagated mallard ducks, bobwhite quail, ringed neck pheasants, chukar partridges, and Hungarian partridges.

This act has various effective dates, please see the full summary for more information.

### **S388 - Qualifying Farmer Zoo Sales Tax Exemption. (SL 2022-45)**

S.L. 2022-45 does the following three things:

- Allows qualifying farmers that also have zoo operations to purchase items for the zoo under their qualifying farmer sales tax exemption certificate, effective for items purchased on or after January 1, 2023. (Part I)
- Creates a new sales tax exemption for certain items purchased by a wildlife manager for wildlife management activities, effective for items purchased on or after October 1, 2022. (Part II)
- Modifies and expands the property tax classification for wildlife conservation land, effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2022. Property classified as wildlife conservation land is assessed and taxed at a value lower than its fair market value. (Part III)

Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective July 7, 2022.

### **S455 - Conform Hemp with Federal Law. (SL 2022-32)**

S.L. 2022-32, as amended by S.L. 2022-73, permanently excludes hemp and hemp products from the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act, as well as tetrahydrocannabinols (THC) found in products with a delta-9 THC concentration of not more than 0.3%.

This act became effective June 30, 2022.

### **S651 - Amend Veterinary Practice Act/DACS Budget. (SL 2022-67)**

S.L. 2022-67 does all the following:

- Defines "staff" and eliminates the phrase "veterinary employee" from the veterinary statutes.
- Defines "veterinary consulting" and clarifies that it does not constitute the practice of veterinary medicine.
- Increases the dollar cap on fee increases for veterinary practice facility inspection, veterinary facility inspection, and sets a dollar fee cap on veterinary facility permit issuance.
- Expands the eligibility for "veterinary student interns" to include currently enrolled students who have satisfactorily completed the second year of an accredited veterinary college.
- Eliminates the position of "veterinary student preceptees" from the veterinary statutes.
- Makes technical and conforming changes to the North Carolina Veterinary Practice Act.
- Allows the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs) to use funds allocated to it to repair the restaurant facility at the Piedmont Triad Farmers Market.
- Makes a technical change to a DACs budget provision.

This act becomes effective October 1, 2022, except that the DACS-related provisions became effective July 1, 2022.

**S762 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2022.**

**Sec. 1: Clarify the Applicability of the Farm Building Exception to the Building Code. (SL 2022-55)**

Section 1 of S.L. 2022-55 provides that a building used primarily for storage of agricultural commodities or products, or storage and use of materials for agricultural purposes, is considered a farm building for purposes of the North Carolina Building Code, regardless of whether the building is located on the same property where the agricultural commodities or products were produced. The building must be surrounded by at least 60 feet of open space and be placarded as "Ag Exempt."

This section became effective July 8, 2022.

**S762 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2022.**

**Sec. 2: Agricultural Use Clarification. (SL 2022-55)**

Section 2 of S.L. 2022-55 clarifies that for purposes of county zoning, a building or structure that is used solely for the storage of cotton, peanuts, or sweetpotatoes, or any of the byproducts of those commodities, is a bona fide farm purpose.

This section became effective July 8, 2022.

**S762 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2022.**

**Sec. 3: Study Fair Repair Requirements for Manufacturers of Farm Equipment. (SL 2022-55)**

Section 3 of S.L. 2022-55 directs the Agriculture and Forestry Awareness Study Commission to study whether to establish a "right to repair" for electronic farm equipment.

This section became effective July 8, 2022.

**S762 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2022.**

**Sec. 4: Preserve Conservation Easements After Property Tax Foreclosures. (SL 2022-55)**

Section 4 of S.L. 2022-55 provides that conservation agreements survive real property tax foreclosure sales.

This section became effective July 8, 2022.

**S762 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2022.**

**Sec. 5: Farmed Cervid Assessment Clarification. (SL 2022-55)**

Section 5 of S.L. 2022-55 specifies that farmed cervid feed means commercial feed sold to a cervid farmer for farmed cervid use, rather than commercial feed labeled or marketed for farmed cervid use.

This section became effective July 8, 2022.

**S762 - North Carolina Farm Act of 2022.**

**Sec. 6: Specify That Commercial Production or Growing of Animals for Purposes of Present Use Value Taxation Includes Boarding Horses. (SL 2022-55)**

Section 6 of S.L. 2022-55 provides that boarding horses qualifies as the commercial production or growing of animals for purposes of the present use value property tax program.

This section became effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2022.