

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 1595  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/24/07

Short Title: Agrarian Growth Zones.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 19, 2007

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY AGRICULTURAL GROWTH ZONES AND TO ALLOW  
3 MORE THAN ONE AGRARIAN GROWTH ZONE IN A COUNTY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143B-437.10 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 143B-437.10. Agrarian growth zone designation.**

7 (a) Agrarian Growth Zone Defined. – An agrarian growth zone is an area that  
8 meets all of the following conditions:

9 (1) It is comprised of one or more contiguous census tracts, census block  
10 groups, or both, in the most recent federal decennial census that meets  
11 all conditions in this subsection. A county may have no more than one  
12 agrarian growth zone census.

13 (1)(2) All land within the zone of the area is located in whole within a county  
14 that has no municipality with a population in excess of 10,000. 10,000  
15 according to the most recent annual population estimates certified by  
16 the State Budget Officer.

17 (2)(3) Every census tract and census block group that composes part of the  
18 zone comprises the area has more than twenty percent (20%) of its  
19 population below the poverty level according to the most recent  
20 federal decennial census.

21 (3) The area of the zone less the smallest census tract included in the zone  
22 does not exceed five percent (5%) of the total area of the county in  
23 which the zone is located.

24 (b) Limitation and Designation. – The area of a county that is included in one or  
25 more agrarian growth zones shall not exceed five percent (5%). Upon application of a  
26 county, the Secretary of Commerce shall make a written determination whether an area  
27 is an agrarian growth zone that satisfies the conditions and limitations of subsection (a)  
28 of this section. The application shall include all of the information listed in this  
29 subsection. A determination under this section is effective until December 31 of the year

1 following the year in which the determination is made. The Department of Commerce  
2 shall publish annually a list of all ~~urban progress~~ agrarian growth zones with a  
3 description of their boundaries.

4 (1) A map showing the census tracts and block groups that would  
5 comprise the zone.

6 (2) A detailed description of the boundaries of the area that would  
7 comprise the zone.

8 (3) A certification regarding the size of the proposed zone.

9 (4) Detailed census information on the county and the proposed zone.

10 (5) A resolution of the board of county commissioners requesting the  
11 designation of the area as an agrarian growth zone.

12 (6) Any other material required by the Secretary of Commerce.

13 (c) Parcel of Property Partially in Agrarian Growth Zone. – For the purposes of  
14 this section, a parcel of property that is located partially within an agrarian growth zone  
15 is considered entirely within the zone if all of the following conditions are satisfied:

16 (1) At least fifty percent (50%) of the parcel is located within the zone.

17 (2) The parcel was in existence and under common ownership prior to the  
18 most recent federal decennial census.

19 (3) The parcel is a portion of land made up of one or more tracts or tax  
20 parcels of land that is surrounded by a continuous perimeter  
21 boundary."

22 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.