

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1103

Short Title: Update Seed Law/Increase Seed License Fees. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hill; and Faison.

Referred to: Agriculture, if favorable, Finance.

April 7, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO UPDATE THE SEED LAW AND TO INCREASE FEES FOR SEED DEALER
3 LICENSES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 106-277 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 106-277. Purpose.**

7 The purpose of this Article is to regulate the labeling, possessing for sale, sale and offering
8 or exposing for sale or otherwise providing for planting purposes of agricultural ~~seeds,~~seeds
9 and vegetable seeds and screenings; seeds; to prevent misrepresentation thereof; and for other
10 purposes."

11 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 106-277.2 reads as rewritten:

12 "**§ 106-277.2. Definitions.**

13 As used in this Article, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

14 ...

15 (7a) The term "conditioning" means cleaning, scarifying, or blending to obtain
16 uniform quality and other operations that would change the purity or
17 germination of the seed and therefore require retesting to determine the
18 quality of the seed, but does not include operations such as packaging,
19 labeling, blending together of uniform lots of the same kind, or kind and
20 variety, without cleaning, or preparation of a mixture without cleaning, any
21 of which would not require retesting to determine the quality of the seed.

22 ...

23 (21) The term "North Carolina seed analysis tag" ~~shall mean~~means the tag
24 designed and prescribed by the Commissioner as the official North Carolina
25 seed analysis tag, ~~said tag to be purchased from the Commissioner.~~ tag.

26 ...

27 (27) ~~The term "processing" means cleaning, scarifying or blending to obtain~~
28 ~~uniform quality and other operations which would change the purity or~~
29 ~~germination of the seed and therefore require retesting to determine the~~
30 ~~quality of the seed, but does not include operations such as packaging,~~
31 ~~labeling, blending together of uniform lots of the same kind or kind and~~
32 ~~variety without cleaning, or preparation of a mixture without cleaning, any~~
33 ~~of which would not require retesting to determine the quality of the seed.~~

34 ...

35 (31) ~~The term "screenings" includes seed, inert matter and other materials~~
36 ~~removed from agricultural or vegetable seed by cleaning or processing.~~

37"



* H 1 1 0 3 - V - 1 *

1 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 106-277.5(2) reads as rewritten:

2 "(2) Lot ~~number or other lot~~ identification."

3 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 106-277.6 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 106-277.6. Labels for vegetable seeds in containers of one pound or less.**

5 Labels for vegetable seeds in containers of one pound or less shall show the following
6 information:

7 (1) Name of kind and variety of seed.

8 (2) ~~Origin, for pepper seed in containers of one ounce or more. If unknown, so~~
9 ~~stated.~~

10 (2a) Lot identification.

11 (3) ~~The year for which the seed is packed, provided the words "packed for" shall~~
12 ~~precede the year, or the percentage of germination, month and year tested.~~

13 (3a) One of the following, as applicable:

14 a. The statement "Packer for (year)" or "Sell by (year)."

15 b. The statement "Sell by (month) (year)" where the month and year in
16 which the germination test was complete is no more than 12 months
17 from the date of the test, exclusive of the month and year of the test.

18 c. The percentage germination and the calendar month and year that the
19 test was completed to determine the percentage, provided that the
20 germination test was completed within 12 months, exclusive of the
21 month and year of the test.

22 "

23 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 106-277.7 reads as rewritten:

24 "**§ 106-277.7. Labels for vegetable seeds in containers of more than one pound.**

25 Vegetable seeds in containers of more than one pound shall be labeled to show the
26 following information:

27 (1) The name of each kind and variety present in excess of five percent (5%)
28 and the percentage by weight of each in order of its predominance.

29 (2) Lot ~~number or other lot~~ identification.

30 (3) ~~Origin, for snap bean and pepper seed only. If unknown, so stated.~~

31 "

32 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 106-277.9 reads as rewritten:

33 "**§ 106-277.9. Prohibitions.**

34 It shall be unlawful for any person:

35 (1) To transport, to offer for transportation, to sell, distribute, offer for sale or
36 expose for sale within this State agricultural or vegetable seeds for seeding
37 purposes:

38 a. Unless a seed license has been obtained in accordance with the
39 provisions of this Article.

40 b. Unless the test to determine the percentage of germination required
41 by G.S. 106-277.5 through 106-277.7 shall have been completed (i)
42 on agricultural seed within a nine-month period, exclusive of the
43 calendar month in which the test was completed, (ii) on cool season
44 lawn seeds and mixtures of cool season lawn seeds, including but not
45 limited to, Kentucky bluegrass, red fescue, chewings fescue, hard
46 fescue, tall fescue, perennial ryegrass, intermediate ryegrass, annual
47 ryegrass, colonial bent grass, creeping bent grass, within a 15-month
48 period, exclusive of the calendar month in which the test was
49 completed, and (iii) on vegetable seed within a 12-month period,
50 exclusive of the calendar month in which the test was completed,
51 immediately prior to sale, exposure for sale, or offering for sale or

transportation; provided, the North Carolina Board of Agriculture may adopt ~~after a public hearing, following public notice, rules and regulations~~ to designate a longer period for any kind of agricultural or vegetable seed which is packaged in such container materials (hermetically sealed), and under such other conditions prescribed, that will, during such longer period, maintain the viability of said seed under ordinary conditions of handling.

...

~~i. Pepper seed in containers holding one ounce or more of seed, unless treated in accordance with a procedure approved by the North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture and labeled to reflect the procedure used.~~

...

- (2) To transport, offer for transportation, sell, offer for ~~sale~~ sale, or expose for sale seeds, whole grain ~~and screenings~~ not for seeding purposes unless labeled "not for seeding purposes.
- (3) To detach, alter, ~~deface~~ deface, or destroy any label provided for in this Article or the rules and regulations promulgated hereunder, or to alter or substitute seed in any manner that defeats the purposes of this Article.
- (4) To disseminate false or misleading advertisement in any manner concerning agricultural ~~seeds, seeds or~~ vegetable ~~seeds or screenings.~~ seeds.

...."

SECTION 7. G.S. 106-277.10(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) The label requirements for peanuts, cotton and tobacco seed may be limited to:

- (1) Lot ~~number or other~~ identification."

SECTION 8. G.S. 106-277.10(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) The provisions of G.S. 106-277.3 through 106-277.7 do not apply:

- (1) To seed or grain sold or represented to be sold for purposes other than for seeding provided that said seed is labeled "not for seeding purposes" and that the vendor shall make it unmistakably clear to the purchaser of such seed or grain that it is not for seeding purposes.
- (2) To seed for ~~processing~~ conditioning when consigned to, being transported to or stored in an approved ~~processing~~ conditioning establishment, provided that the invoice or labeling accompanying said seed bears the statement "seed for ~~processing~~ conditioning" and provided further that other labeling or representation which may be made with respect to the unlearned or ~~unprocessed~~ unconditioned seed shall be subject to this Article.
- (3) To seed sold by a farmer grower to a seed dealer or ~~processor, conditioner,~~ or to seed in storage in or consigned to a seed-cleaning or ~~processing~~ conditioning plant; provided that any labeling or other representation which may be made with respect to the unlearned or ~~unprocessed~~ unconditioned seed shall be subject to this Article.
- (4) To any carrier in respect to any seed or screenings transported or delivered for transportation in the ordinary course of its business as a carrier; provided that such carrier is not engaged in producing, ~~processing~~ conditioning, or marketing agricultural or vegetable seeds ~~or screenings~~ subject to provisions of this Article."

SECTION 9. G.S. 106-277.23 reads as rewritten:

"§ 106-277.23. Notice of violations; hearings, prosecutions or warnings.

It shall be the duty of the Commissioner to give notice of every violation of the provisions of this Article with respect to agricultural or vegetable seeds, or mixtures of such seeds, ~~or~~

1 screenings to the person in whose hands such seeds or screenings are found, and to send copies
2 of such notice to the shipper of such seed or screenings and to the person whose "analysis tag or
3 label" is attached to the container of such seeds or screenings, seeds, in which notice he may
4 designate a time and place for a hearing. The person or persons involved shall have the right to
5 introduce evidence either in person or by agent or attorney. If, after hearing, or without such
6 hearing in the event the person fails or refuses to appeal, the Commissioner is of the opinion
7 that the evidence warrants prosecution he may institute proceedings in a court of competent
8 jurisdiction in the locality which the violation occurred or, if he believes the public interest will
9 be adequately served thereby, he may direct to the alleged violator a suitable written notice or
10 warning."

11 SECTION 10. G.S. 106-277.25 reads as rewritten:

12 "§ 106-277.25. Seizure and disposition of seeds violating Article.

13 Any lot of agricultural or vegetable seeds, mixtures of such seeds or screenings being sold,
14 exposed for sale, offered for sale or held with intent to sell in this State contrary to the
15 provisions of this Article shall be subject to seizure on complaint of the Commissioner to the
16 resident judge of the superior court in the county in which the seeds, mixtures of such seeds or
17 screenings are located. In the event the court finds the seeds or screenings to be in violation of
18 the provisions of this Article and orders the condemnation thereof, such seeds or screenings
19 shall be denatured, processed, destroyed, relabeled, or otherwise disposed of in compliance
20 with the laws of this State; provided that in no instance shall such disposition be ordered by the
21 court without first having given the claimant an opportunity to apply to the court for the release
22 of the seeds, mixtures of such seeds or screenings with permission to process or reliable to
23 bring them into compliance with the provisions of this Article."

24 SECTION 11. G.S. 106-277.28(2) reads as rewritten:

- 25 "(2) Each seed dealer who offers for sale any agricultural, vegetable, or lawn or
- 26 turf seeds for seeding purposes shall register with the Commissioner and
- 27 shall obtain an annual license, for each location where activities are
- 28 conducted, by January 1 of each year and shall pay the following license fee:
- 29 a. Wholesale or combined wholesale and retail
- 30 seed dealer..... \$100.00 \$125.00
- 31 b. Retail seed dealer with sales of no more than
- 32 \$500.00..... 5.00
- 33 c. Retail seed dealer with sales of more than
- 34 \$500.00 but no more than \$1,000 15.00
- 35 d. Retail seed dealer with sales of more than
- 36 \$1,000..... 25.00. \$30.00."

37 SECTION 12. This act becomes effective October 1, 2009.