

April 14, 1999

S 953. WETLANDS RESTORATION PROG. AMENDS. *TO AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DISTRIBUTE FUNDS FROM THE WETLANDS RESTORATION FUND AND TO CONVEY INTERESTS IN REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER THE WETLANDS RESTORATION PROGRAM TO FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND PRIVATE NONPROFIT CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS.* Adds new GS 143-214.2 as title indicates. Requires recipients of funds to acquire property and recipients of interests in real property under this provision to grant a conservation easement to DENR in a form acceptable to DENR.

Intro. by Clodfelter.

Ref. to Agriculture

GS 143

June 30, 1999

S 953. AMBIENT AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS. Intro. 4/14/99. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Replaces original bill with act entitled TO ENACT THE AMBIENT AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999.

Goals. Sets state goals of reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides from all sources by at least 25% by July 1, 2009 and reducing the growth of vehicle miles traveled in the State by at least 25% of that growth that would otherwise occur by July 1, 2009. Requires Dep'ts of Environment and Natural Resources and Transportation to make annual reports on progress toward achieving these goals and recommendations for any measures needed to do so to the Environmental Review Comm'n on or before Oct. 1 of each year, beginning Oct. 1, 2000.

Sulfur content of motor fuels. Adds GS 119-26.2 to set sulfur content standard for gasoline of 30 parts per million.

Motor vehicle emissions inspection and maintenance. Adds GS 143-215.107A to establish a motor vehicle emissions testing and maintenance program. Sets qualifications of inspectors and type of test required. Requires emission inspections in Cabarrus, Durham, Forsyth, Gaston, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Orange, Union, and Wake Counties. Effective July 1, 2003, adds Catawba, Cumberland, Davidson, Iredell, Johnston, and Rowan Counties. Effective January 1, 2004, adds Alamance, Chatham, Franklin, Lee, Lincoln, Moore, Randolph, and Stanly Counties. Effective July 1, 2004, adds Buncombe, Cleveland, Granville, Harnett, and Rockingham Counties. Effective January 1, 2005, adds Edgecombe, Lenoir, Nash, Pitt, Robeson, Wayne, and Wilson Counties. Effective July 1, 2005, adds Burke, Caldwell, Haywood, Henderson, Rutherford, Stokes, Surry, and Wilkes Counties. Effective January 1, 2006, adds Brunswick, Carteret, Craven, New Hanover, and Onslow Counties. Allows Environmental Management Comm'n (EMC) to require tests in additional counties with populations over 40,000, specifies considerations to be evaluated in determining whether additional counties should be added, and limits legislative authority under GS 150B-21.3(b) to disapprove rule adding additional counties. Directs EMC to adopt implementing rules to become effective on July 1, 2002. Provides no additional counties may be added prior to July 1, 2006. Provides emission inspections for diesel powered vehicles shall not be required prior to July 1, 2001. Repeals these provisions and provides that additional counties are not added unless GS 20-183.7 is amended no later than December 31, 2000 to increase the fee for motor vehicle emissions inspections. Directs Dep't of Environment and Natural Resources to study costs and reasonable fees for emissions inspection and maintenance, with report to the Environmental Review Comm'n by Feb. 1, 2000. Amends GS 143-215.107 to specify that EMC may adopt standards for the program, and is to develop program of incentives to promote voluntary reductions of emissions. Makes other technical and conforming amendments.

State agency goals, plans, duties, and reports. Sets goal that after January 1, 2004, at least 75% of new light duty cars and trucks purchased by the State, 50% of school buses in populous counties, and 50% of public transportation buses in counties with emission inspection requirements will be alternative-fueled or low emission vehicles (with a annual report to the Environmental Review Comm'n by Sept. 1, commencing in 2000, on progress towards meeting these goals). Requires Dep'ts of Transportation, Commerce, and Environment and Natural Resources to develop recommendations for incentives to increase use of alternative-fueled and low emission vehicles; Dep'ts of Administration, Office of State Personnel, Transportation, and

Environment and Natural Resources to develop recommendations on reducing vehicle miles traveled by State employees; Dep'ts of Transportation, Commerce, and Environment and Natural Resources to develop recommendations and plan for reducing vehicle miles traveled by private sector employees; Office of State Personnel to implement a policy promoting telework/telecommuting for State employees (in each instance with an annual report to the Environmental Review Comm'n by Oct. 1, commencing in 2000. Directs EMC to initiate rule making regulating NOx emissions from complex sources no later than Oct. 1, 1999. Creates Art. 16 of GS Ch. 136 to direct Dep't of Transportation to consider design alternatives that facilitate cost-effective interface of regionally significant transportation projects with highway, airport, rail, bus, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities and directs Metropolitan Planning Organizations to base all transportation plans on the most recently completed regional travel demand models. Requires Dep'ts of Transportation and Environment and Natural Resources to convene a joint study group to examine air quality and transportation issues.