

April 21, 2005

H 1499. AMEND CLEAN WATER LOAN & GRANT LAWS. TO MAKE VARIOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA CLEAN WATER REVOLVING LOAN AND GRANT ACT INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: EXPAND BOTH THE PROJECTS AND APPLICANTS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE LOANS AND GRANTS FROM THE REVOLVING LOAN AND GRANT FUND, ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO SET LOWER INTEREST RATES AND EXTEND REPAYMENT TERMS TO THIRTY YEARS OF THE EXPECTED LIFE OF A PROJECT, TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TO DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED PRIORITY SYSTEM THAT WILL ADDRESS BOTH POINT AND NONPOINT SOURCE WASTEWATER PROJECTS AND TO MAKE OTHER CLARIFYING, TECHNICAL, AND CONFORMING CHANGES; AND TO CLARIFY THAT STORMWATER PLANNING PROJECTS AND WATER SUPPLY PLANNING PROJECTS ARE PURPOSES THAT MAY BE FUNDED BY THE CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND. Amends GS Chapter 159G, the NC Clean Water Revolving Loan and Grant Act of 1987 to (1) add "drinking water" and delete "of 1987" from the name of the act; (2) provide that certain nonprofit water corporations are eligible applicants under the act (was, eligible just for drinking water treatment revolving loans); (3) clarify that stormwater quality projects and nonpoint source pollution projects may be funded under the act; (4) delete specific allocation formula for funds appropriated to the Fund; (5) to provide more flexibility to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in setting interest rates and maturities of loans; (6) delete references in act to the Environmental Management Commission; (7) provide that with respect to ranking applications for funding, DENR must negotiate an integrated priority system with the Environmental Protection Agency; (8) extend the period of time for an applicant to arrange financing and award a contract for the project before the awarded funding is withdrawn; (9) modify the requirements for DENR's annual report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations; and (10) make numerous technical and conforming changes. Amends GS 113A-253(c) (purposes of Clean Water Management Trust Fund) to add the purpose of facilitating stormwater planning projects and water supply planning projects. Effective July 1, 2005.

Intro. by Gibson.

Ref. to Environment and Natural Resources

GS 113A, 159G