

April 21, 2005

**H 1542. BEACH & COASTAL WATERWAYS CONSERVATION ACT. TO ENACT THE BEACH AND COASTAL WATERWAYS CONSERVATION, RESTORATION, AND PUBLIC ACCESS ACT.** As title indicates. Enacts new Article 29 of GS Chapter 113. Establishes 12-member NC Beach and Waterway Council, as an advisory body to the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, three to be appointed by Governor, three by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the House Speaker and three upon recommendation of the President Pro Tem. of the Senate, and three by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources. Requires that of Secretary's appointees, one must be a member of the Coastal Resources Comm'n, one a member of the marine Fisheries Comm'n, and one a member from the Environmental Management Comm'n. Among other powers and duties, the council is directed (1) to assist the department in developing a study of the economic impact of beaches and waterways on the economies of beach counties; (2) review policies for beaches, inlets, and waterways as recommended in the Coastal Habitat Protection Plan; (3) make recommendations for expenditures from the NC Beach, Waterway, and Public Access Fund; and (4) review federal and State laws and administrative rules affecting beach access, beach conservation and restoration, and advances in technology affecting these. Directs the Department to develop and implement a multiyear beach and waterway conservation, restoration, and public access plan and strategy, including, but not limited to, providing a status report on US Army Corps of Engineers beach protection and waterway navigation projects and recommending priorities for State funding for beach renourishment projects. Establishes the NC Beach, Waterway, and Public Access Fund in the State Treasurer's Office to provide grants to coastal communities for public beach and waterways conservation, restoration, and access, to be administered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Repeals Section 13.9 of SL 2000-67, which sets forth some of the same or similar provisions in uncodified form but without creating a council. Effective July 1, 2005.

**Intro. by Culpepper, Preston.**

Ref. to Environment and Natural Resources

GS 113