

May 2, 2005

H 1569. OYSTER RESTORATION & PROTECTION ACT. TO ENHANCE THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT SUPPORTS OYSTER RESTORATION ACTIVITIES, TO PROTECT AND RESTORE WATER QUALITY AND HABITAT IN PRIME OYSTER GROWING AREAS, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO HELP SUPPORT PROJECTS TO REHABILITATE OYSTER HABITATS AND SANCTUARIES, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OYSTER HATCHERIES AT EACH OF THE THREE NORTH CAROLINA AQUARIUMS, AND TO DEVELOP PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS REGARDING THOSE OYSTER HATCHERIES. Substantially similar to S 925, introduced 3/24/05. Appropriates \$200,000 for 2005-06 and \$200,000 for 2006-07 from General Fund to Dep't of Environment & Natural Resources (DENR) to fund efforts by the Shellfish Rehabilitation Program to plant additional cultch material (oyster shell, clamshell, or marl); appropriates \$200,000 for 2005-06 and \$200,000 for 2006-07 from General Fund to DENR to create two oyster sanctuaries each year; appropriates \$80,000 for 2005-06 and \$80,000 for 2006-07 from General Fund to DENR to establish an oyster shell recycling coordinator position and recycling infrastructure; appropriates \$237,000 for 2005-06 and \$237,000 for 2006-07 from General Fund to DENR to fund one GIS and three shoreline surveyor positions. Specifies that stormwater retrofits are to be given an equal priority with water and sewer projects under State Revolving Fund, and specifies that certain projects are to be given the highest priorities and may be provided interest free. Enacts new GS 143-214.2C (similar to proposed new GS 143-214.7A in 1st edition of S 925) to prohibit new or expanded discharge of stormwater into prime shellfish growing area, as defined in bill, except in case of storms of certain intensity. Also appropriates \$300,000 for 2005-06 from General Fund to DENR to develop an oyster hatchery and public education program regarding hatcheries at the three NC aquariums. Effective July 1, 2005.

Intro. by Culpepper, Justice, Harrison.

Ref. to Appropriations

GS 143, APPROP