

May 21, 2008

**H 2448. REVISE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMISSION.** Filed 05/21/08. *TO SIMPLIFY THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE NORTH CAROLINA MEMBERS OF THE ROANOKE RIVER BASIN ADVISORY COMMISSION ARE APPOINTED, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.*

Repeals Article 7 of GS Chapter 77 and enacts new Part 2 to Article 8, the chief effect of which is to replace the 18-member Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission and the 21-member Roanoke River Basin Advisory Commission with a single body, the North Carolina/Virginia River Basin Advisory Commission, composed of 15 members appointed to represent both states. Members include legislators whose district are in the river basin, representations of minimal utilities, agricultural interests and land conservation trusts, plus the president of Progress Energy. Provides that initial appointments to the new commission will be for staggered terms.

The new Commission's purposes, powers and duties are substantially similar to those of the Bi-State Commission, with changes that are mostly clarifying or technical in nature. The statutes providing for staffing and funding of the new Commission are also substantially similar to those that presently provide for staffing and funding of the Bi-State Commission, but they clarify that staff support and facilities must be provided within the available resources of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The new Commission would not be subject to a statutory requirement applicable to the Bi-State Commission that particular groups be represented on its standing committees. In addition, the new Commission would have the authority to obtain information and data upon request from all state officers and departments of North Carolina or Virginia.

**Intro. by Allen.**

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