

April 9, 2009

H 1337. WATER RESOURCES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009. Filed 4/8/09. *TO CREATE A WATER QUANTITY COST-SHARE PROGRAM TO HELP FARMERS AND OTHER LANDOWNERS INCREASE OR PRESERVE WATER STORAGE CAPACITY, DEVELOP AND IMPROVE SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES, AND IMPLEMENT WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY PRACTICES.*

Amends GS Chapter 139 by adding new Article 5, entitled Grants for Water Resources Improvement Projects with new GS 139-60 and GS 139-61. Proposed GS 139-60 directs the State Water and Soil Conservation Commission to create the Water Resources Improvement Cost-Share Program to increase and preserve water storage capacity, develop and improve surface and groundwater supplies, and implement water conservation and efficiency practices. The program shall supply cost-share funds to farmers and other NC landowners to expand or construct water storage structures, adopt innovative water storage practices such as, but not limited to, aquifer storage and recovery systems, develop and improve surface and groundwater resources, and convert to more water-efficient equipment or practices. Cost-share assistance is limited to 75% of the cost being provided by the program with a maximum of \$150,000 per year per applicant. Grants authority to allocate the funds to the State Water and Soil Conservation Commission (Commission). Proposed new GS 139-61 creates the Water Quantity Improvement Trust Fund to fund the Water Resources Improvement Program created in proposed GS 139-60. The Fund is to be a nonreverting fund within the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and is to consist of funds appropriated to it by the General Assembly, any federal funds available for the purposes of the Water Resources Improvement Program, and any grants or gifts to the state for this purpose. Requires that the Commission must evaluate statutory and regulatory impediments to constructing water impoundments, for agricultural purposes and make recommendations to the Environmental Review Commission by December 31, 2009.

Intro. by Gibson, Gillespie.

GS 139

May 6, 2009

H 1337. WATER RESOURCES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009. Filed 4/8/09. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition. Adds provision to GS 139-61 that state funds appropriated to program will remain available until spent.