

May 6, 2009

**H 1638. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE COMMN/COORDINATE FUNDS.** Filed 5/6/09. *TO EXPAND THE DUTIES OF THE STATE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION, TO PROVIDE THAT THE COMMISSION SHALL ALSO SERVE AS LEAD COORDINATOR FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING IN NORTH CAROLINA, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE COMMISSION TO HIRE A PERMANENT STAFF TO ASSIST WITH THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.*

Amends GS 159G-65(a) to expand the duties of the State Water Infrastructure Commission (Commission) to include (1) compiling and maintaining a baseline inventory of the state's water and wastewater infrastructure and (2) coordinating the funding for water and wastewater infrastructure provided by federal, state, and local government agencies and non-state entities.

Amends the caption for GS 159G-66 to reflect the additional duties of the Commission, and authorizes the Commission to have rule-making authority. Delineates additional duties of the Commission in serving as lead coordinator for determining water and wastewater infrastructure funding needs in the state. Enacts GS 159G-66.1 to provide for the hiring of an executive director and other staffing by the Commission. Amends GS 159G-67 regarding the Commission's annual report, requiring that a copy also be provided to the General Assembly (was, to the Environmental Review Commission and the Fiscal Research Division), and that beginning November 1, 2012, the report is also to include a status report on the implementation and maintenance of the statewide strategic plan for the state's water and wastewater infrastructure developed pursuant to GS 159G-66 as amended.

Enacts GS 159G-68 to require any other state agency or entity that receives state funds to fund state water or wastewater infrastructure to cooperate with the Commission in using and disbursing those funds pursuant to a statewide strategic plan for the state's water and wastewater infrastructure. Requires each agency and entity receiving state funds to cooperatively develop a common first page for grant and loan applications, schedule regular joint meetings, exchange progress reports for commonly funded projects, share program funding reports in common format, and examine Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR) needs surveys and Water 2030 data to start development of statewide needs assessment.

Appropriates \$500,000 for 2009-10 and \$500,000 for 2010-11 from the General Fund to the Office of the Governor to be used to employ staff, provide operating expenses, and implement the act.

Effective July 1, 2009.

**Intro. by Samuelson.**

GS 159G, APPROP