

May 17, 2010

S 1170. IMPROVE RIVER BASIN MODELING. Filed 5/17/10. *TO IMPROVE THE DEVELOPMENT OF BASINWIDE HYDROLOGIC MODELS, TO IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS TO WATER AND WATER RESOURCES FUNDING INFORMATION, AND TO PROVIDE FOR REPORTING ON WATER USE EFFICIENT IN THE STATE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.*

Enacts new GS 143-355(o) to require the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (Department) to develop a basinwide hydrologic model for each of the 17 major river basins in the state. Directs the Department to create a development schedule for the models, and provides the components and requirements for each model. Requires the Department to develop criteria for and to determine whether an unacceptable risk of water shortage exists for any river basin. Requires the Department's risk determination to project water supply and demand for a period of no less than 30 years. Requires the Department to create, with assistance from other designated groups, ecological criteria to protect river basins. Directs the Department to work with neighboring states on model development for shared river basins. Instructs the Department to report to the Environmental Review Commission on the model development progress by November 1 of each year. Requires that the first report, due by November 1, 2011, include the recommended schedule for model development, the risk criteria for water shortage, the ecological criteria for basin protection, and a schedule to integrate river basin hydrologic models and water quality plans.

Enacts new GS 143-355(p) to direct the Department, in consultation with other stakeholders, to develop and implement a plan providing greater access to water resource and water infrastructure funding information to the public. Enacts new GS 143-355(q) to require that the Department and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services report to the Environmental Review Commission by April 1 of each year on water efficiency efforts in the state and pursuant to SL 2008-143 (addressing drought preparedness and response). Makes conforming changes to the definitions in GS 143-350.

Intro. by Clodfelter.

GS 143