

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE BILL 1337
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H1337-PCS10934-TA-9**

Short Title: Water Resources Improvement Act of 2009.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 9, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO CREATE A WATER RESOURCES COST-SHARE PROGRAM TO ASSIST
2 LANDOWNERS TO: INCREASE OR PRESERVE WATER STORAGE CAPACITY;
3 DEVELOP AND IMPROVE SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER SUPPLIES; AND
4 IMPLEMENT WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY PRACTICES.
5

6 Whereas, water is fundamental to the health, safety, and economy of our State; and

7 Whereas, North Carolina has abundant surface and groundwater resources to sustain
8 a growing population if managed properly; and

9 Whereas, North Carolinians are known for their innovative approach to solving
10 environmental and economic challenges; and

11 Whereas, many water resources such as mining pits, borrow pits, salt water
12 resources, and treated wastewater can be better utilized to meet our water resource needs; and

13 Whereas, innovative systems such as aquifer storage and recovery need to be
14 implemented in other parts of the State when appropriate; and

15 Whereas, landowners depend on adequate water resources; and

16 Whereas, the Water Allocation Study, as authorized by S.L. 2007-518,
17 recommended that North Carolina increase its water storage capacity; and

18 Whereas, the Water Allocation Study also recommended that our State ensure that
19 our water infrastructure is maintained; and

20 Whereas, there are financial and regulatory hurdles that impede construction of both
21 small- and large-scale water impoundments; and

22 Whereas, the Water Allocation Study also recommended that North Carolina
23 address critical water resource research and study needs; and

24 Whereas, the Water Allocation Study also recommended rewarding practices that
25 promote water efficiency; and

26 Whereas, it is in the public interest to promote water efficiency and the expansion of
27 water storage capacity; and

28 Whereas, North Carolina needs to act now to solve our long-term water resource
29 needs; and

30 Whereas, landowners need assistance in constructing new and expanding existing
31 water storage structures; and

32 Whereas, landowners need assistance in converting to more water-efficient
33 equipment; Now, therefore,

34 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:



1 (50%) of Program funds shall be used to assist persons actively engaged in agriculture as
2 defined in G.S. 106-581.1."

3 **SECTION 2.** The Soil and Water Conservation Commission may adopt rules to
4 implement the Program created by Section 1 of this act and may establish a technical advisory
5 committee to assist with implementation of the Program.

6 **SECTION 3.** The Soil and Water Conservation Commission shall evaluate
7 statutory and regulatory impediments to constructing water impoundments for agricultural
8 purposes and make recommendations, including legislative proposals, to the Environmental
9 Review Commission on or before December 31, 2009.

10 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.