

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1746*
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/9/10
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H1746-PCS80632-SY-17

Short Title: Water Infrastructure Information Needs.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 18, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
2 RESOURCES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, TO
3 ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO: (1) DEVELOP A STATEWIDE SURVEY TO
4 SUPPLEMENT THE CURRENT INFORMATION USED TO ASSESS THE STATE'S
5 WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS; (2) DEVELOP A PLAN
6 FOR INCORPORATING THE INFORMATION COMPILED FROM THE UNITED
7 STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SURVEY INTO THE STATE
8 WATER SUPPLY PLAN; AND (3) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A
9 STATEWIDE WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCE AND
10 FUNDING DATABASE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY
11 COMMISSION ON WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.
12

13 Whereas, the two primary sources of data currently available to determine the
14 State's water and wastewater needs include the United States Environmental Protection Agency
15 surveys of publicly owned water and wastewater systems conducted every four years by the
16 Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the North Carolina Rural Economic
17 Development Center Water 2030 Initiative; and

18 Whereas, the Water 2030 Initiative, completed in 2005, provides a snapshot of
19 projected water and wastewater infrastructure needs through 2030, but was funded as a onetime
20 overview, and has not been fully updated since 2005; and

21 Whereas, while both the United States Environmental Protection Agency surveys
22 and Water 2030 Initiative are useful tools, there continue to be gaps in the information used to
23 determine the State's water and wastewater infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to
24 economic development and growth-related infrastructure needs, water system efficiency
25 measures, and costs related to the development of new water sources; Now, therefore,
26 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

27 **SECTION 1.** Task Force. – The Department of Environment and Natural
28 Resources, the Department of Commerce, the Department of State Treasurer, the Clean Water
29 Management Trust Fund, the State Water Infrastructure Commission, the Office of Information
30 Technology Services, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North Carolina
31 Association of County Commissioners, the Rural Economic Development Center, and the
32 Environmental Finance Center at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina
33 at Chapel Hill shall establish a task force to improve the collection and utilization of



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1 information related to State water and wastewater infrastructure needs. The Department of
2 Environment and Natural Resources shall be the lead agency for the task force. The task force
3 may also work with other interested stakeholders in its discretion. The responsibilities and
4 duties of the task force shall include all of the following:

- 5 (1) To develop a statewide survey to build on the base of the existing United
6 States Environmental Protection Agency water and wastewater infrastructure
7 survey process that will provide a more accurate assessment of statewide
8 water and wastewater infrastructure needs.
 - 9 a. The survey shall be designed to address the following information
10 gaps that have been identified in the current information sources:
 - 11 1. Information on water and wastewater infrastructure needs
12 related to economic development and population growth.
 - 13 2. Information on water and wastewater system service areas.
 - 14 3. Information on drinking water needs relevant to determining
15 the need and the cost of proposed reservoir construction.
 - 16 4. Information on infrastructure needs to address failing water
17 and wastewater systems.
 - 18 5. Information on the infrastructure needs related to water
19 system efficiency to address the issue of water loss.
 - 20 b. The task force shall consider how often the information provided by
21 the survey should be updated.
 - 22 c. The task force shall consider requesting information to update the
23 Water 2030 Initiative as part of the survey design.
 - 24 d. The task force shall consider how often to update the survey, and
25 how best to formulate and summarize the survey results on the State's
26 combined water and wastewater infrastructure needs in a concise and
27 easily understood format for use by the General Assembly. The task
28 force shall prepare a model report based on this format.
- 29 (2) To develop a plan to incorporate relevant information obtained from the
30 existing United States Environmental Protection Agency survey and any
31 statewide survey developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section into
32 the State water supply plan developed pursuant to G.S. 143-355(m). In
33 devising the plan to incorporate the needs survey information into the State
34 water supply plan, the task force shall consider possible modifications to the
35 information collected as part of the local water supply plans or the
36 methodology used to prepare the local water supply plans that would make it
37 easier to incorporate the needs survey information into the State water
38 supply plan.
- 39 (3) To recommend a plan for the establishment and maintenance of a statewide
40 water and wastewater infrastructure resource and funding database, or
41 alternative information systems or processes that are capable of
42 consolidating and integrating statewide information on water and wastewater
43 infrastructure needs, resources, and funding and making this information
44 more accessible to applicants, government agencies, and policymakers. The
45 task force shall consider the relative merits of a database and any proposed
46 alternatives, taking into account estimated costs and the ability of each to
47 meet the goals outlined in this section. In analyzing a database, the task force
48 shall identify options for database system design and structure and delineate
49 the categories of information to be compiled and indexed.

50 **SECTION 2.** Report. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources
51 shall report the findings and recommendations of the task force to the Legislative Study

1 Commission on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure by November 1, 2010. The report shall
2 include the estimated cost to implement the recommendations and any legislative changes
3 required to implement the recommendations.

4 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.