GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 967 Judiciary II Committee Substitute Adopted 4/15/09 PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S967-PCS15253-RBx-6

 Short Title:
 Creation of Yadkin River Trust.
 (Public)

 Sponsors:
 Referred to:

March 26, 2009

1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO CR	EATE THE YADKIN RIVER TRUST IN ORDER TO: (1) DEVELOP THE
3	YADKIN R	IVER IN DAVIDSON, MONTGOMERY, ROWAN, AND STANLY
4	COUNTIES	AS AN INSTRUMENTALITY OF INTRASTATE, INTERSTATE, AND
5	FOREIGN C	OMMERCE AND NAVIGATION; (2) ACQUIRE AND OPERATE THE
6	YADKIN P	ROJECT, AN EXISTING HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY, AND TO
7	AUTHORIZI	E ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES BY THE TRUST FOR THAT
8	PURPOSE;	AND (3) PRODUCE, DISTRIBUTE, AND SELL HYDROELECTRIC
9	POWER FRO	OM EXISTING OR NEW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITIES.
10	The General Asso	embly of North Carolina enacts:
11	SECT	TON 1. Chapter 77 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
12	Article to read as	follows:
13		" <u>Article 9.</u>
14		" <u>Yadkin River Trust.</u>
15	" <u>§ 77-120. Yadk</u>	
16		blished the Yadkin River Trust as a public agency and instrumentality of the
17	State. The purpos	se of the Trust is to benefit the people of the State as follows:
18	<u>(1)</u>	To develop the Yadkin River in Davidson, Montgomery, Rowan, and Stanly
19		Counties as an instrumentality of intrastate, interstate, and foreign commerce
20		and navigation through the development, sale, and distribution of
21		hydroelectric power.
22	<u>(2)</u>	To ensure the equitable distribution of water for public purposes.
23	<u>(3)</u>	To maintain recreational facilities associated with the Yadkin River.
24	" <u>§ 77-121. Defin</u>	
25		g definitions apply in this Article:
26	<u>(1)</u>	Board The Board of Directors of the Yadkin River Trust.
27	<u>(2)</u>	Trust. – The Yadkin River Trust as established by this Article.
28	<u>(3)</u>	Yadkin Project Project No. 2197 as described in a license issued by the
29		Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as of May 1, 1958, and as thereafter
30		amended and otherwise subject to the regulation of the Federal Energy
31		Regulatory Commission.
32	<u>(4)</u>	Yadkin Project License The license issued by the Federal Energy
33		Regulatory Commission as of May 1, 1958, which expired on April 30,



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1	2008, the year-to-year annual licenses that have been issued	since that time,
2	and any future renewal license for Project No. 2197.	
3	"§ 77-122. Board of Directors.	
4	(a) Appointment. – The Board of Directors of the Yadkin River Trust	shall consist of
5	seven directors who shall be appointed by the Governor upon the advice of the	e Speaker of the
6	House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate	and subject to
7	confirmation by the General Assembly by joint resolution. Two of the dire	ctors shall have
8	substantial work experience within the operations of electric cooperatives or	investor-owned
9	utilities or substantial experience on an electric cooperative board or invest	or-owned utility
10	board but must not serve as an employee or board member of an electric	cooperative or
11	investor-owned utility during their term as a director of the Yadkin River Trus	st. The names of
12	directors to be appointed by the Governor shall be submitted by the Governo	r to the General
13	Assembly for confirmation by the General Assembly on or before June 1 of th	ne year in which
14	the terms for which the appointments are to be made are to expire. Upo	n failure of the
15	Governor to submit names by that date, the President Pro Tempore of the Sen	ate and Speaker
16	of the House of Representatives jointly shall submit the names of a like number	er of directors to
17	the General Assembly on or before June 15 of the same year for confirmation	n by the General
18	Assembly. Regardless of the way in which the names of directors are submitted	ed, confirmation
19	of directors must be accomplished prior to adjournment of the then curren	t session of the
20	General Assembly. The Governor may remove any director of the Board f	for misfeasance,
21	malfeasance, or nonfeasance.	
22	(b) <u>Terms. – The term of office of directors of the Board is four years</u> .	. A director may
23	be reappointed to any number of successive four-year terms. A director in off	
24	serve until the director's successor is duly confirmed and qualified, but the ho	oldover does not
25	affect the expiration date of the succeeding term.	
26	(c) Chair; Vice-Chair. – Upon confirmation of the directors by the Gene	
27	provided in subsection (a) of this section, the Governor shall designate one of	
28	serve as chair of the Board for the succeeding four years and until the direct	
29	duly confirmed and qualified. Upon death or resignation of the director appoint	
30	Governor shall designate the chair from the remaining directors and appoin	
31	accordance with this section to fill the vacancy on the Board. The Governor si	
32	first meeting of the Board, at which time the members of the Board shall	elect from their
33	membership a vice-chair of the Board.	6 4
34	(d) <u>Vacancies. – In case of death, incapacity, resignation, or vacance</u>	• • • •
35	reason in the office of any director prior to the expiration of the director's ter	
36 37	name of the director's successor shall be submitted by the Governor within four	
38	vacancy arises to the General Assembly for confirmation by the General A failure of the Governor to submit the name of the successor, the President Pro	
38 39	Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives jointly shall submi	*
40	successor to the General Assembly within six weeks after the vacancy arises. F	
40 41	way in which the names of directors are submitted, confirmation of directors are submitted.	
42	accomplished prior to the adjournment of the then current session of the Genera	
43	vacancy arises in the office of director when the General Assembly is not in	
44	appointment is deemed urgent by the Governor, the Governor may appoint a	
45	on an interim basis pending confirmation by the General Assembly.	director to serve
46	(e) Organization of the Board. – The Board shall adopt bylaws with	h respect to the
47	calling of meetings, quorums, voting procedures, the keeping of reco	
48	organizational and administrative matters as the Board may determine. A quor	
49	majority of the members of the Board. No vacancy in the membership of the B	
50	right of a quorum to exercise all rights and to perform all the duties of the Board	
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1	(f) Compensation of the Board. – N	o part of the revenues or assets of the Trust shall
2	inure to the benefit of or be distributable	o the members of the Board or officers or other
3	private persons. The members of the Board s	hall receive no salary for their services but shall be
4	entitled to receive per diem and allowances i	n accordance with the provisions of G.S. 138-5.
5	"§ 77-123. Authority to acquire Yadkin P	roject and Yadkin Project License.
6	The Trust may acquire the Yadkin Proj	ect License and the Yadkin Project, including all
7	· · · ·	s. If the Trust acquires the Yadkin Project License,
8	it shall pursue transfer of the license at the	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and other
9	transfer of title for property or permits and m	ay enter into negotiations, execute agreements, file
10	an application for a new license, amend	the existing license, and take any other actions
11	necessary to become the licensee for the Ya	dkin Project on behalf of the State. Any terms of
12		prior to completion of the acquisition. If acquired,
13		ider, terminate, transfer, or sell the Yadkin River
14	License or the Yadkin Project unless an act of	•
15	"§ 77-124. Operation of the Trust.	v 11
16	(a) Management. – The Board shall of	letermine the policies of the Trust by majority vote
17		oting, a quorum having been established. Once a
18		unicate it to the executive director who shall have
19		e policy of the Trust. No member of the Board has
20	•	onal directives to any employee of the Trust other
21	than the executive director.	• • •
22	(b) Employees. – The Board shall a	point an executive director, whose salary is fixed
23		executive director or a person designated by the
24	executive director shall appoint, employ, di	smiss, and, within the limits of available funding,
25	fix the compensation of other employees as	considered necessary. During any fiscal year, the
26		erformance-based salary increases in excess of the
27	funds that would have been expended had	the employees of the Trust received the same
28	across-the-board salary increases granted by	the General Assembly to State employees subject
29	to the State Personnel Act. These merit	and performance-based salary increases may be
30		ording to rules adopted by the Trust. Except as to
31	the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of Chapter	126 of the General Statutes, the employees of the
32	Trust are exempt from the State Personnel A	<u>et.</u>
33	(c) <u>Consultants. – The Board may e</u>	mploy consulting engineers, architects, attorneys,
34	real estate counselors, appraisers, and other c	onsultants as needed.
35	" <u>§ 77-125. Powers of the Trust.</u>	
36	The Trust has all the powers necessary	o execute the provisions of this Article, including
37	the following:	
38	(1) <u>To adopt, alter, or repeat</u>	its bylaws and adopt, amend, or repeal rules to
39	implement the provisions	of this Article. The Trust and its activities are not
40	subject to review or appro	val by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.
41	(2) To sue and be sued, to ma	ke contracts, to adopt and use a common seal, and
42	to alter the adopted seal as	needed.
43		o agreements with the State, local governments,
44		Carolina, and other states for the interchange of
45	business and to facilitate t	
46		cquire, own, hold, use, encumber, sell, transfer, or
47		eal, personal, or mixed, or any interest therein.
48		administer loans and grants of money from any
49		tate or its political subdivisions, or from any other
50	public or private sources	available, to expend the money in accordance with

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	the requirements imposed by the lender or donor, and	nd to give any evidences
	of indebtedness that are required.	
<u>(6)</u>	To procure and maintain adequate insurance or	otherwise provide for
	adequate protection to indemnify the Trust and its o	fficers, directors, agents,
	employees, adjoining property owners, or the gener	ral public against loss or
	liability resulting from any act or omission by or on	
<u>(7)</u>	To establish, finance, purchase, construct,	
	hydroelectric facilities on the Yadkin River to imp	lement the provisions of
	this Article.	- ·
<u>(8)</u>	To manufacture, produce, and generate hydroelectri-	c power using the waters
	of the Yadkin River and to sell the hydroelectric pow	
	without the State of North Carolina.	
<u>(9)</u>	To set rates, services, and practices, or participate	in any organized power
<u>~~</u>	sales market with one or more entities for the	
	distribution of the power generated by the hydro	
	charge and collect fees for the use of power generate	
(10)	To acquire, purchase, establish, build, construct	
<u>()</u>	operate any structure or facilities necessary, useful,	
	employed in generation of hydroelectric power.	
<u>(11)</u>	To seek enforcement of environmental laws	and contribution to
<u>(11)</u>	environmental cleanup costs, consistent with its	•
	Article.	
(12)	To fix, charge, collect, pledge, or assign revenues of	the Trust.
$\frac{(12)}{(13)}$	To purchase or finance real or personal property in	
<u>(15)</u>	cities and counties under G.S. 160A-20.	the manner provided for
"8 77-126. Resno	onsibilities to local governments.	
	cquires the Yadkin Project and Yadkin Project Lic	ense as provided in this
	must provide the following services for the local g	
Yadkin River area	1 0 0	
(1)	Conduct environmental testing and assessment of	all properties located in
<u></u>	Stanly County currently or formerly owned and o	
	Generating, Inc., or Alcoa, Inc., or its subsidiari	
	danger to public health or the environment.	
<u>(2)</u>	Pursue remediation of contamination at the Badin	n Works site located in
<u> </u>	Stanly County to levels over and above the minimum	•
	to restore the contaminated land and water to multip	*
<u>(3)</u>	Establish a remediation fund to perform necessary e	
<u>\U/</u>	remediation of hazardous waste sites in the Yadkir	
	properties owned or under the control of Alcoa	-
	Alcoa, Inc., or its subsidiaries.	i ower Generating, me.,
<u>(4)</u>	Install aeration technology in association with the Y	adkin Project to increase
<u>(+)</u>	dissolved oxygen levels and improve water quality in	
(5)	Institute operational changes to the Yadkin Proje	
<u>(J)</u>	water in Badin, Falls, High Rock, and Tuckertov	
	consistent flow of water to downstream water users.	wir lakes and provide a
<u>(6)</u>	Extend the recreation seasons at Badin, Falls, High	Pock and Tuckertown
<u>(0)</u>	lakes by three months from April 1 to October 31.	
$\langle 7 \rangle$	Implement a comprehensive drought management	t plan or "Low Inflow
1 / 1		
<u>(7)</u>		-
<u>(7)</u>	Protocol," that requires the Trust to reduce power water downstream when certain drought-related trigg	generation and send less

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Develop and maintain new or expanded public recreation	n facilities across th
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	ral Statutes, the Sta
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	vation in accordance
zenon 2 of the motul Calonnia Constitution.	
	 ly Of North Carolina Develop and maintain new or expanded public recreation Yadkin River, including a new public swim area in J tailwater fishing access areas, two new reservoir fishing campsites. Allow the City of Albemarle to increase water withdraw River up to 30,000,000 gallons per day. Utilize a portion of the proceeds from power generating River Basin Clean Water Trust Fund to be created in of for water quality improvements, implement inny strategies, state-of-the-art wastewater improvements, improvements, and to provide funding mechanisis governments to make water quality improvements there River Basin. Apportion a percentage of electricity from the Yadkin F by a regional economic development entity to be Department of Commerce. To the extent that there as credits attributable to the output, the Trust must transfid designated entity. Use proceeds from power generation for the following conservation projects: a. To acquire and donate land to the Town of Baar park. b. To acquire and donate land to Rowan Count protection and public access to the Eagle Point N c. To acquire other land for conservation purposes. d. To acquire other land for conservation purposes. d. To acquire Article 5 of Chapter 159 of the Generation project to provide funding results. Review the proposed Water Infrastructure Mitigation proposed by the City of Salisbury and determine what Trust can do to assure an adequate, clean future water sume bonds. In the Yadkin River Project must be used to pay the oblin muse remaining after the payment of these listed obligations are: To opay the debt service on any revenue bonds, notes, or indebtedness or obligation. To judit the local responsibilities under G.S. 77-126. To make payments to taxing units under G.S. 77-126. To make payments to taxing units under G.S. 77-126. To make payments to taxing units under G.S. 77-126. To

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1	<u>(b)</u>	Payments to Taxing Units. – The Trust must pay an amount to	<u>a taxing unit in</u>
2	which the	Trust is the listed owner of property in the unit on January 1. The a	mount the Trust
3	<u>must remi</u>	it to the taxing unit is the amount of property tax payable on the prop	perty in the year
4	preceding	the date the Trust acquired the property.	
5	" <u>§ 77-130</u>	. Report; audit.	
6	<u>(a)</u>	Report. – The Trust must submit a report regarding its operations	and transactions
7	for the pre	eceding fiscal year to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governme	ental Operations,
8	the Joint	Legislative Utility Review Committee, and the House and Senate	Committees on
9	Appropria	tions on or before July 1 of each year. The annual report must inclu-	de the following
10	informatio	on:	_
11		(1) The amount of power and energy produced by the Trust.	
12		(2) The Trust's financial statements for the preceding fiscal y	ear, prepared in
13		accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.	
14		(3) The price of power and energy sold by the Trust.	
15		(4) The amount of water distributed to each entity or water user.	
16		(5) The status of environmental testing, assessment, and	remediation of
17		contamination at the Badin Works and other sites located in S	
18	(b)	Audit. – The operations of the Trust are subject to the oversight of t	· · · ·
19	<u> </u>	icle 5A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes.	
20		. Conflicts of interest.	
21		ector, officer, or employee of the Trust who has a conflict of interest in	n a contract with
22		must disclose this interest to the Board and the Board must note	
23		its minutes. The director, officer, or employee who has a conflict of	
24		e on behalf of the Trust in the authorization of that contract. Failure to	
25		by this section does not affect the validity of any bonds or notes issued	
26	-	ector, officer, or employee of the Trust has a conflict of interest if any	
27		ving applies:	
28		(1) The director, officer, or employee has a direct or indire	ect interest in a
29		contract with the Trust.	
30		(2) The director, officer, or employee is an officer or employ	vee of a firm or
31		corporation, not including a unit of local government, that	
32		indirect interest in a contract with the Trust.	
33		(3) The director, officer, or employee has an ownership inter-	est in a firm or
34		corporation that has a direct or indirect interest in a contract	
35		SECTION 2. Notwithstanding G.S. 77-122, as enacted by Section	
36	order to p	rovide for the staggering of the terms of the Board of Directors of the	
37	-	terms of the initial appointments of the directors made by the Govern	
38		s: (i) two shall be for a period of two years; (ii) two shall be for a	
39		l (iii) three shall be for a period of four years.	F
40	J ,	SECTION 3. G.S. 66-58(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision	on to read:
41	"(b)	The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to:	
42	(0)		
43		(26) The Yadkin River Trust, established in G.S. 77-120."	
44		SECTION 4. G.S. 126-5(c1) reads as rewritten:	
45	"(c1)	Except as to the provisions of Articles 6 and 7 of this Chapter, the p	rovisions of this
46	· · ·	hall not apply to:	TOVISIONS OF this
40 47	Chapter SI	num not uppry to.	
48		(29) Employees of the Yadkin River Trust."	
40 49		SECTION 5. G.S. 150B-1(c) reads as rewritten:	
49 50	"(c)	Full Exemptions. – This Chapter applies to every agency except:	
50		i un Exemptions. – i ins chapter applies to every agency except.	

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	(1)	The North Carolina National Guard in exercising its jurisdiction.	court-martial
	(2)	The Department of Health and Human Services in exercising	tits authority
	(2)	over the Camp Butner reservation granted in Article 6 of Ch	
		the General Statutes.	upter 1220 of
	(3)	The Utilities Commission.	
	(4)	The Industrial Commission.	
	(5)	The Employment Security Commission.	
	(6)	The State Board of Elections in administering the HAVA A	Administrative
	(0)	Complaint Procedure of Article 8A of Chapter 163 of the Gene	
	(7)	The North Carolina State Lottery.	
	(8)	The Yadkin River Trust, established in G.S. 77-120."	
		FION 6. G.S. 159-81 reads as rewritten:	
" 8 159 -	-81. Defi		
0		nd phrases defined in this section shall have the meanings indicated	ed when used
		ne following definitions apply in this Article:	
	(1)	"Municipality" means Municipality. – One or more of the follo	wing:
	~ /	<u>a.</u> <u>a A</u> county, city, town, <u>or</u> incorporated village, sanitary	
		b. <u>A sanitary</u> district, metropolitan sewerage district, metro	
		district, county water and sewer district, or water	-
		authority, hospital authority, authority.	
		c. <u>A hospital authority or hospital district</u> , parking district.	
		d. <u>A parking authority, special authority.</u>	-
		e. <u>An</u> airport district, regional district, an airport author	ity, or a joint
		agency authorized by agreement between two cities	
		airport pursuant to G.S. 63-56.	-
		<u>f.</u> <u>A public transportation authority, authority or regional</u>	transportation
		authority, regional authority.	-
		<u>g.</u> <u>A</u> natural gas district, regional <u>district.</u>	
		h. <u>A regional sports authority, airport authority, joint authority</u>	ority.
		i. <u>A joint agency created pursuant to Part 1 of Article</u>	
		160A of the General Statutes, a joint agency authorized	
		between two cities to operate an airport pursuant to G	
		the Statutes.	
		<u>j.</u> <u>The North Carolina Turnpike Authority created pursu</u>	ant to Article
		6H of Chapter 136 of the General Statutes, but not any	other forms of
		State or local government. Statutes.	
		k. The Yadkin River Trust created pursuant to Article 9	of Chapter 77
		of the General Statutes.	
	(2)	"Revenue bond" means a Revenue bond A bond issued b	y the State of
		North Carolina or a municipality pursuant to this Article.	
	(3)	"Revenue bond project" means any Revenue bond pro	<u> ject. – Any</u>
		undertaking for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction,	improvement,
		enlargement, betterment, or extension of any one or combi	nation of the
		revenue-producing utility or public service enterprise faciliti	es or systems
		listed in this subdivision, to be financed through the issuance	ce of revenue
		bonds, thereby providing funds to pay the costs of the under	ertaking or to
		reimburse funds loaned or advanced by or on the behalf of eith	er the State or
		a municipality to pay the costs of the undertaking.	
		A revenue bond project shall be (i) owned or leased as	lessee by the

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1	in an undertaking established pursuant to Part 1 of Au	
2	160A of the General Statutes. If the revenue bond projec	t is owned by one or
3	more municipalities as provided in (ii) of this subdivision	on, any one or more
1	of the participating municipalities may each be an issue	uing unit consistent
5	with their agreement to establish a joint undertaking. Ir	n addition, any joint
5	agency established by participating municipalities put	
7	Article 20 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes may	y be an issuing unit
3	without owning the revenue bond project or leasing it as	lessee.
)	The cost of an undertaking may include all prop	erty, both real and
)	personal and improved and unimproved, plants, wo	rks, appurtenances,
l	machinery, equipment, easements, water rights, air rig	hts, franchises, and
2	licenses used or useful in connection with the under	taking; the cost of
3	demolishing or moving structures from land acquire	ed and the cost of
1	acquiring any lands to which the structures are to be	e moved; financing
5	charges; the cost of plans, specifications, surveys, and e	stimates of cost and
5	revenues; administrative and legal expenses; and	any other expense
7	necessary or incident to the project.	
3	The following facilities or systems may be revenue	bond projects under
)	this subdivision:	
)	a. Water systems or facilities, including a	ll plants, works,
l	instrumentalities and properties used or us	eful in obtaining,
2	conserving, treating, and distributing water for do	omestic or industrial
3	use, irrigation, sanitation, fire protection, or a	
1	private use.	• •
5	b. Sewage disposal systems or facilities, including	g all plants, works,
5	instrumentalities, and properties used or usefu	
7	treatment, purification, or disposal of sewage.	
3	c. Systems or facilities for the generation, producti	on, transmission, or
)	distribution of gas (natural, artificial, or mixed) o	
)	lighting, heating, or power for public and priva	
l	systems shall include the purchase and/or lease	-
2	and natural gas reserves and the purchase of natural	ral gas supplies, and
3	where any parts of such gas systems may be loca	
1	State or without.	
5	d. Systems, facilities and equipment for the colle	ction, treatment, or
5	disposal of solid waste.	, , ,
7	e. Public transportation systems, facilities, or equip	ment, including but
3	not limited to bus, truck, ferry, and railroad	-
)	trackages, vehicles, and ferries, and mass transit s	-
)	f. Public parking lots, areas, garages, and other	-
ĺ	structures and facilities.	paring
2	g. Aeronautical facilities, including but not li	mited to airports.
3	terminals, and hangars.	unifer to unipolitis,
1	h. Marine facilities, including but not limited to ma	rinas basins docks
5	dry docks, piers, marine railways, wharves, harbo	
5	terminals.	no, marchouses, and
7	i. Hospitals and other health-related facilities.	
3	j. Public auditoriums, gymnasiums, stadiums, and c	onvention centers
)	k. Recreational facilities.	onvention centers.
)	1. Repealed by Session Laws 2001-474, s. 36, effe	ctive November 20

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1 2 3	m. Economic development projects, including the acquisition and development of industrial parks, the acquisition and resale of land suitable for industrial or commercial purposes, and the construction
4 5	and lease or sale of shell buildings in order to provide employmen opportunities for citizens of the municipality.
6 7	n. Facilities for the use of any agency or agencies of the government o the United States of America.
8	o. Structural and natural stormwater and drainage systems of all types.
9	p. In the case of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, a Turnpike
10	Project, as defined in G.S. 136-89.181, including the planning and
11	design of a Turnpike Project, that is designated by the Authority to
12	be a revenue bond project.
13	(4) <u>"Revenues" include all Revenues. – All moneys received by the State or a</u>
14	municipality from, in connection with, or as a result of its ownership of
15	operation of a revenue bond project or a utility or public service enterprise
16	facility or system of which a revenue bond project is a part, including (to the
17	extent deemed advisable by the State or a municipality) moneys received
18	from the United States of America, the State of North Carolina, or any
19	agency of either, pursuant to an agreement with the State or a municipality
20	as the case may be, pertaining to the project."
21	SECTION 7. This act is effective when it becomes law.