

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 547
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S547-PCS35266-ST-24

Short Title: Interconnection of Public Water Systems.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 30, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT FACILITATING AND ENCOURAGING THE INTERCONNECTION OF PUBLIC
3 WATER SYSTEMS TO REGIONAL SYSTEMS WHEN NECESSARY TO PROMOTE
4 PUBLIC HEALTH OR THE ENVIRONMENT.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 130A-317 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

7 "(g) The Department shall identify systems, as constructed or altered, that appear
8 capable of interconnectivity with another system or systems located within the same river basin
9 as set out in G.S. 143-215.22G that appear to have adequate unallocated capacity to expand and
10 that interconnectivity would promote public health, protect the environment, or ensure
11 compliance with established drinking water rules. The Department shall notify the affected
12 systems of the potential for interconnectivity in the future. The systems so notified may discuss
13 options for potential interconnectivity, including joint operations, regionalization, or merger.
14 The Local Government Commission shall be copied on the notice from the Department and
15 shall assist the systems with any questions regarding liabilities of the systems and alterations to
16 the operational structure of the systems. If the Department requests additional information or
17 notification of the discussions on interconnectivity of a particular system, the system shall
18 respond; failure to respond may result in denial of the system's application for construction or
19 alteration of the system until the response is received by the Department. The Department may
20 not require an environmental impact statement or engineering reports under this section."

21 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
22 Administration the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) for the 2015-2016 fiscal
23 year for the Regional Water Supply Planning Revolving Fund.

24 **SECTION 3.** The Commission for Public Health shall adopt rules to implement
25 G.S. 130A-317, as amended by this act, by October 1, 2015.

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



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