

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015**

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**HOUSE BILL 186  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/16/15  
PROPOSED SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H186-PCS40482-TA-12**

Short Title: Cape Fear Water Resources Availability Study.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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March 11, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION TO  
2 CONDUCT A STUDY OF WATER RESOURCES AVAILABILITY IN THE CAPE  
3 FEAR RIVER BASIN.  
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** The Environmental Review Commission, with the assistance of the  
7 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, shall study the aggregate uses of  
8 groundwater and surface water in or affecting the Cape Fear River Basin by all users,  
9 including, but not limited to, public water systems, industrial facilities, and agricultural  
10 operations. The study shall include all of the following elements: (i) a summary of the current  
11 and 50-year projected water-use demands along with the available water supplies for those  
12 portions of Alamance, Bladen, Brunswick, Caswell, Chatham, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin,  
13 Durham, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pender,  
14 Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Sampson, Scotland, and Wake counties within  
15 the Cape Fear River Basin; (ii) an evaluation of the adequacy of currently available supplies to  
16 meet the expected long-term needs for all water demands, including the identification of those  
17 areas of the basin that do not have a sustainable long-term water supply for the anticipated  
18 growth of that area; (iii) the identification of potential conflicts among the various users and  
19 recommendations for developing and enhancing coordination among users and groups of users  
20 in order to avoid or minimize those conflicts; and (iv) an enhanced review of the portions of the  
21 Cape Fear River Basin within Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender counties addressing the  
22 increased demands on groundwater and limited surface water options in that area.

23 All the information and any analytical tools, such as models, employed in the  
24 conduct of the study shall be made available electronically for public review and use on the  
25 Web site of the Department's Division of Water Resources.

26 The Environmental Review Commission may submit an interim report to the 2016  
27 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly and shall submit a final report of its findings  
28 and recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the 2017 General Assembly.

29 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.



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