

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL DRS45244-MHa-30

Short Title: Reliable Water & Sewer Infrastructure Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Everitt and Grafstein (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SEWER REPAIR TASK FORCE, AND TO APPROPRIATE  
3 FUNDS TO THE SOUTH GRANVILLE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY.

4 Whereas, the development of wastewater infrastructure is essential to economic  
5 growth in North Carolina, particularly rural areas and rapidly developing suburban counties of  
6 the State; and

7 Whereas, the State Water Infrastructure Authority estimated in 2017 that there was  
8 \$11 billion in unmet wastewater infrastructure capital needs across the State; and

9 Whereas, it is in the interest of the State's environment and citizens to have access to  
10 modern, functional wastewater infrastructure; Now, therefore,  
11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12 **SECTION 1.(a)** Establishment; Purpose. – The Sewer Repair Task Force (Task  
13 Force) is established. The purpose of the Task Force is (i) to review and assess the current state  
14 of wastewater infrastructure in the State, (ii) to develop strategies and plans for the effective  
15 implementation of wastewater treatment projects, for addressing existing challenges and barriers  
16 to project financing and construction, and for addressing future needs within the State, and (iii)  
17 to identify funding mechanisms, including potential contributions from industrial wastewater  
18 discharges, to support wastewater infrastructure development.

19 **SECTION 1.(b)** Task Force. – The Task Force shall consist of 18 members,  
20 appointed as follows:

- 21 (1) Four members of the House of Representatives upon the recommendation of  
22 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom shall be a member  
23 of the minority party.
- 24 (2) Four members of the Senate upon the recommendation of the President Pro  
25 Tempore of the Senate, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party.
- 26 (3) The Director of the Division of Water Infrastructure of the Department of  
27 Environmental Quality or the Director's designee, ex officio and nonvoting.
- 28 (4) The Director of the Local Government Commission or the Director's designee,  
29 ex officio and nonvoting.
- 30 (5) Four county commissioners, who are advisory and nonvoting, one of whom is  
31 appointed upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House of  
32 Representatives, one of whom is appointed upon the recommendation of the  
33 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, one of whom is appointed  
34 upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and  
35 one of whom is appointed upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader  
36 of the Senate.



- 1 (6) Four representatives of a local government wastewater entity, who are  
2 advisory and nonvoting, one of whom is appointed upon the recommendation  
3 of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom is appointed  
4 upon the recommendation of the Minority Leader of the House of  
5 Representatives, one of whom is appointed upon the recommendation of the  
6 President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and one of whom is appointed upon the  
7 recommendation of the Minority Leader of the Senate. For purposes of this  
8 act, a local government wastewater entity is any of the following:
- 9 a. A water and sewer authority created pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter  
10 162A of the General Statutes.
  - 11 b. A metropolitan sewerage district created pursuant to Article 5 of  
12 Chapter 162A of the General Statutes.
  - 13 c. A metropolitan water and sewerage district created pursuant to Article  
14 5A of Chapter 162A of the General Statutes.
  - 15 d. A county water and sewer district created pursuant to Article 6 of  
16 Chapter 162A of the General Statutes.
  - 17 e. A sanitary district created pursuant to Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter  
18 130A of the General Statutes that is providing wastewater collection  
19 or treatment services.
  - 20 f. A joint agency created pursuant to Part 1 or Part 5 of Article 20 of  
21 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes that is providing wastewater  
22 collection or treatment services.

23 **SECTION 1.(c)** The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the  
24 House of Representatives shall each appoint a cochair of the Task Force from among its  
25 membership.

26 **SECTION 1.(d)** The Task Force shall meet upon the call of its cochairs. A quorum  
27 of the Task Force is a majority of its members. No action may be taken except by a majority vote  
28 at a meeting at which a quorum is present. The Task Force, while in the discharge of its official  
29 duties, may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 through G.S. 120-19.4. The Task  
30 Force may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services, as provided by  
31 G.S. 120-32.02. If the Task Force hires a consultant, the consultant shall not be a State employee  
32 or a person currently under contract with the State to provide services. Members of the Task  
33 Force shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel allowances as provided in G.S. 120-3.1. The  
34 expenses of the Task Force shall be considered expenses incurred for the joint operation of the  
35 General Assembly.

36 **SECTION 1.(e)** In conducting this study, the Task Force shall consult with  
37 representatives of the Department of Commerce, the Economic Development Partnership of  
38 North Carolina, the Utilities Commission, and the Golden LEAF Foundation.

39 **SECTION 1.(f)** The Legislative Services Officer shall assign professional and  
40 clerical staff to assist the Task Force in its work. The Director of Legislative Assistants of the  
41 House of Representatives and the Director of Legislative Assistants of the Senate shall assign  
42 clerical support to the Task Force.

43 **SECTION 1.(g)** Meetings of the Task Force are authorized to begin on or after July  
44 1, 2025. The Task Force shall submit a final report on the results of its study, including proposed  
45 legislation, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and  
46 Economic Resources on or before December 1, 2026, by filing a copy of the report with the  
47 Office of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Office of the Speaker of the House of  
48 Representatives, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and  
49 Economic Resources, and the Legislative Library. The Task Force shall terminate on December  
50 1, 2026, or upon the filing of its final report, whichever comes first.

1           **SECTION 2.** The sum of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) in nonrecurring funds  
2 for the 2025-2026 fiscal year is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
3 Environmental Quality to provide a grant to the South Granville Water and Sewer Authority to  
4 be allocated as follows:

5           (1) Twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for expansion of wastewater facilities  
6 serving Creedmoor and Butner.

7           (2) Fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) to upgrade wastewater treatment  
8 facilities to meet new federal standards for PFAS.

9           (3) Ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for water meter modernization.

10          (4) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for replacement of lead pipes to comply with  
11 new federal requirements.

12           **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act is effective July 1, 2025. The remainder of this act  
13 is effective when it becomes law.