Short Title:	Local Water Supply Plans. (Public)
Sponsors:	Representative McLawhorn.
Referred to:	Public Utilities.

April 10, 2003

1   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS TO PREPARE LOCAL
3   WATER SUPPLY PLANS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE SECRETARY OF
4   ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO MAKE DROUGHT
5   DESIGNATIONS.
6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
7   **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143-355(l) reads as rewritten:
8   "(l)   Each unit of local government that provides public water service or that plans
9 to provide public water service and each public water system, as defined in G.S.
10 130A-313(10), that regularly serves 1,000 or more individuals shall, either individually
11 or together with other units of local government,government and public water systems,
12 prepare a local water supply plan and submit it to the Department. The Department shall
13 provide technical assistance with the preparation of plans to units of local government
14 and public water systems upon request and to the extent that the Department has
15 resources available to provide assistance. At a minimum, local units of government and
16 public water systems shall include in local water supply plans all information that is
17 readily available to them. Plans shall include present and projected population,
18 industrial development, water use within the service area, present and future water
19 supplies, an estimate of the technical assistance that may be needed at the local level to
20 address projected water needs, current and future water conservation and water reuse
21 programs, a description of how the local government or public water system will
22 respond to drought and other water shortage emergencies and continue to meet essential
23 public water supply needs during the emergency, and any other related information as
24 the Department may require in the preparation of a State water supply plan. Local plans
25 shall be revised to reflect changes in relevant data and projections at least once each five
26 years unless the Department requests more frequent revisions. The revised plan shall
27 include the current and anticipated reliance by the local government unit or public water
28 system on surface water transfers as defined by G.S. 143-215.22G. Local plans and

1   revised plans shall be submitted to the Department once they have been approved by the
2   unit(s) of local ~~government.~~ government or public water system."
3   **SECTION 2.** Article 38 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended
4   by adding a new section to read:
5   "**§ 143-355.1. Drought designations.**
6   (a)   In order to alert units of local government and public water systems, as
7   defined in G.S. 130A-313(10), to the likelihood of potential drought and the severity of
8   existing drought, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources may do any of
9   the following:
10   (1)   Designate certain areas of the State where drought conditions are
11   impending.
12   (2)   Designate certain areas of the State as suffering from drought
13   conditions.
14   (3)   Designate the level of severity of drought conditions.
15   (b)   In making any of the designations described in subsection (a) of this section,
16   the Secretary may consult with representatives of public water systems and State,
17   federal, and local governmental agencies that are involved in water management or are
18   responsible for addressing drought impacts. The Secretary may appoint a drought
19   management advisory council composed of representatives of public water systems and
20   State, federal, and local governmental agencies that are involved in water management
21   and are responsible for drought impacts to assist with making the determinations
22   described in subsection (a) of this section."
23   **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law. The first local
24   water supply plans prepared by public water systems pursuant to G.S. 143-355(l), as
25   amended by Section 1 of this act, are due on or before January 1, 2004.