

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE BILL 1749*
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/9/10**

Short Title: Water Infrastructure Needs/Info Gaps.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 18, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
2 RESOURCES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, TO
3 DEVELOP A STATEWIDE SURVEY TO SUPPLEMENT THE CURRENT
4 INFORMATION USED TO ASSESS THE STATE'S WATER AND WASTEWATER
5 INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEVELOP A PLAN FOR INCORPORATING THE
6 INFORMATION COMPILED FROM THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL
7 PROTECTION AGENCY SURVEY INTO THE STATE WATER SUPPLY PLAN, AS
8 RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON WATER AND
9 WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.
10

11 Whereas, the two primary sources of data currently available to determine the
12 State's water and wastewater needs include the United States Environmental Protection Agency
13 surveys of publicly owned water and wastewater systems conducted every four years by the
14 Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the North Carolina Rural Economic
15 Development Center Water 2030 Initiative; and

16 Whereas, the Water 2030 Initiative, completed in 2005, provides a snapshot of
17 projected water and wastewater infrastructure needs through 2030, but was funded as a onetime
18 overview, and has not been fully updated since 2005; and

19 Whereas, while both the United States Environmental Protection Agency surveys
20 and Water 2030 Initiative are useful tools, there continue to be gaps in the information used to
21 determine the State's water and wastewater infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to
22 economic development and growth-related infrastructure needs, water system efficiency
23 measures, and costs related to the development of new water sources; Now, therefore,
24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.** Task Force. – The Department of Environment and Natural
26 Resources, the Department of Commerce, the Department of State Treasurer, the Clean Water
27 Management Trust Fund, the State Water Infrastructure Commission, the Office of Information
28 Technology Services, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North Carolina
29 Association of County Commissioners, the Rural Economic Development Center, and the
30 Environmental Finance Center at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina
31 at Chapel Hill shall establish a task force to improve the collection and utilization of
32 information related to State water and wastewater infrastructure needs. The Department of
33 Environment and Natural Resources shall be the lead agency of the task force, and the task
34 force may work with other interested stakeholders in its discretion. The responsibilities and
35 duties of the task force shall include all of the following:

- 36 (1) To develop a statewide survey to build on the base of the existing United
37 States Environmental Protection Agency water and wastewater infrastructure



1 survey process that will provide a more accurate assessment of statewide
2 water and wastewater infrastructure needs.

3 a. The survey shall be designed to address the following information
4 gaps that have been identified in the current information sources:

5 1. Information on water and wastewater infrastructure needs
6 related to economic development and population growth.

7 2. Information on water and wastewater system service areas.

8 3. Information on drinking water needs relevant to determining
9 the need and the cost of proposed reservoir construction.

10 4. Information on infrastructure needs to address failing water
11 and wastewater systems.

12 5. Information on the infrastructure needs related to water
13 system efficiency to address the issue of water loss.

14 b. The task force shall consider how often the information provided by
15 the survey should be updated.

16 c. The task force shall consider how often to update the survey, and
17 how best to formulate and summarize the survey results on the State's
18 combined water and wastewater infrastructure needs in a concise and
19 easily understood format for use by the General Assembly. The task
20 force shall prepare a model report based on this format.

21 (2) To develop a plan to incorporate relevant information obtained from the
22 existing United States Environmental Protection Agency survey and any
23 statewide survey developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section into
24 the State water supply plan developed pursuant to G.S. 143-355(m). In
25 devising the plan to incorporate the needs survey information into the State
26 water supply plan, the Department shall consider possible modifications to
27 the information collected as part of the local water supply plans or the
28 methodology used to prepare the local water supply plans that would make it
29 easier to incorporate the needs survey information into the State water
30 supply plan.

31 **SECTION 2.** Report. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources
32 shall report the findings and recommendations of the task force to the Legislative Study
33 Commission on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure by November 1, 2010. The report shall
34 include the estimated cost to implement the recommendations and any legislative changes
35 required to implement the recommendations.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.