

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 1278*

Short Title: Water Infrastructure Database/Task Force. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Albertson and Hoyle.

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

May 20, 2010

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A PLAN FOR THE
3 ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A STATEWIDE WATER AND
4 WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCE AND FUNDING DATABASE AS
5 RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON WATER AND
6 WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the
9 Department of Commerce, the Department of the Treasurer, the Clean Water Management
10 Trust Fund, the State Water Infrastructure Commission, the Office of Information Technology
11 Services, and the Environmental Finance Center at the School of Government at the University
12 of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shall establish a task force to work together to design a plan
13 for the establishment and maintenance of a statewide water and wastewater infrastructure
14 resource and funding database. The North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North
15 Carolina Association of County Commissioners, the Rural Economic Development Center, and
16 the United States Department of Agriculture also shall be included as joint members of the task
17 force if they choose to participate in the study. The Department of Environment and Natural
18 Resources shall be the lead agency for the task force. The task force may also work with other
19 interested stakeholders in its discretion.

20 **SECTION 1.(b)** The purpose of the water and wastewater resource funding
21 database is to provide one source of information that has the ability to track and locate all of the
22 current water and wastewater infrastructure project needs and funding patterns in this State,
23 thus reducing the resources spent by federal and State agencies (e.g. EPA), funding groups, and
24 nonprofit organizations determining water infrastructure needs in North Carolina.

25 In developing the plan, the task force shall consider the consolidation and
26 integration of information that is relevant to water and wastewater infrastructure and water use
27 and currently is being collected by State agencies, nonprofit corporations, institutions of higher
28 education, and other entities.

29 The task force shall consider a system design that is capable of compiling and
30 indexing all of the items listed in subdivisions (1) through (11) of this subsection and shall
31 identify which of those items should be included in the database compiled by the system. The
32 task force shall also indicate in its findings the merits of including or excluding each item. The
33 items for consideration are as follows:

- 34 (1) Current and proposed infrastructure projects.
- 35 (2) Funding patterns and the status of each infrastructure project.
- 36 (3) System information (interconnections, fiscal).
- 37 (4) Strategic plans.



- 1 (5) Local water supply plans.
- 2 (6) Water resource maps and publications.
- 3 (7) Systems management information.
- 4 (8) Reporting and regulatory requirements.
- 5 (9) Guidance and training documents.
- 6 (10) Procedural guidance and forms for project implementation and funding.
- 7 (11) Internet links to support services.

8 **SECTION 1.(c)** In addition to the items set out in subsection (b) of this section, the
9 task force may also consider the following:

- 10 (1) In developing the plan, the task force shall consider the consolidation and
11 integration of information that is relevant to water and wastewater
12 infrastructure and water use and currently is being collected by State
13 agencies, nonprofit corporations, institutions of higher education, and other
14 entities.
- 15 (2) The possibility of digitizing common application forms currently being
16 utilized by certain funding agencies, as well as digitizing past funding
17 documents and records.
- 18 (3) Information streamlining processes that can be implemented in the system
19 design.
- 20 (4) The preliminary design and structural options for developing a database of
21 water and wastewater needs.
- 22 (5) How current resources and existing efforts can be leveraged to maximize
23 funding for local water systems.
- 24 (6) Determination of what low- and no-incremental-cost data integration or
25 implementation methods for assessment of water system needs exist.
- 26 (7) Implementing methods and data that enhance the sharing of infrastructure
27 development plans and documents.
- 28 (8) The design for a more comprehensive and robust database to be built and
29 constructed if more funds become available for the database in the future.
- 30 (9) Any other information relevant to the design of the database system
31 described in this section.

32 **SECTION 1.(d)** The task force shall present its proposed plan and report its
33 findings and recommendations to the Legislative Study Commission on Water and Wastewater
34 Infrastructure by November 1, 2010. The report shall include the estimated cost to create the
35 database and the estimated cost to maintain such a system. The report shall also include any
36 legislative changes that may be needed to implement the proposed plan.

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