GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2007

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HOUSE BILL 740* Committee Substitute Favorable 3/29/07

Short Title:	Water Resources	Grant FundsAB

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 15, 2007

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1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
3	ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS
4	OF GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A WATER RESOURCE
5	MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.
6	Whereas, North Carolina's regional councils provide local governments in
7	every part of the State with regional means to address water quality issues that stretch
8	beyond any local government's boundaries; and
9	Whereas, safe and reliable water is critical to every community's economic
10	development potential, as well as to existing citizens and businesses; and
11	Whereas, all water supply and water quality issues cross local boundaries,
12	calling for regional coordination to assure that water remains safe and available; and
13	Whereas, regional councils are in a unique position to help local governments
14	deal collectively with water resource issues, identifying solutions that are tailored to
15	conditions and water needs in each region, especially those struggling to meet
16	infrastructure and environmental challenges; and
17	Whereas, regional councils, by working in concert with the Department of
18	Environment and Natural Resources, can bring local governments together to address
19	critical water supply and water quality at a regional scale; Now, therefore,
20	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
21	SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
22	Department of Environment and Natural Resources the sum of one million four hundred
23	thousand dollars (\$1,400,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year and the sum of one million
24	four hundred thousand dollars (\$1,400,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year. Of the funds
25	appropriated by this section, the sum of eighty thousand dollars (\$80,000) shall be
26	allocated each fiscal year to each of the State's 17 regional councils of government to be
27	used by each regional council of government to develop and implement a nonregulatory
28	water resource management program through the voluntary cooperation of local
29	governments, water users, other stakeholders, and the Department of Environment and

(Public)

General Assembly of North Carolina

1 Natural Resources. The funds allocated to a regional council of government by this 2 section shall be paid in two equal installments. The first payment shall be made upon 3 presentation by the regional council of government of its plan of work for the fiscal year 4 as required by Section 3 of this act. The second payment shall be made upon the 5 submission by the regional council of government of the report required by Section 3 of 6 this act. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources may use up to forty 7 thousand dollars (\$40,000) of the funds appropriated by this act for each fiscal year for 8 the costs of administering this act.

9 SECTION 2. In developing and implementing the water resource 10 management program required under Section 1 of this act, each regional council of 11 government shall carry out a plan of work that may include the following:

- 12 (1)Development of one or more multi-jurisdictional water resource 13 management plans in cooperation with local governments and key 14 water user stakeholders, and the Department of Environment and 15 Natural Resources, based on the water resource needs, geographic and 16 hydrologic features in the region, including both surface and groundwater resources as appropriate to the region. 17
 - (2)Convening coalitions of local governments and major water users in the respective regions to set strategies for sustaining water resources necessary to support sound economic development.
 - (3) Implementation of multi-jurisdictional projects and activities that address water quantity and water quality problems identified in water resource management plans.
 - Identification of opportunities for connections between water systems (4) and wastewater system providers to achieve efficiencies and make systems more drought resistant.

27 **SECTION 3.** Each regional council of government that receives funds under 28 this act shall present to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the 29 Fiscal Research Division the council's plan of work, goals, objectives, and proposed 30 expenditures for the fiscal year on or before 1 September of that fiscal year. Each 31 regional council of government that receives funds under this act shall submit to the 32 Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Fiscal Research Division a 33 report on the council's accomplishments and the council's actual expenditures of funds 34 appropriated by this act during the fiscal year on or before 1 March of that fiscal year. 35

SECTION 4. This act becomes effective 1 July 2007.

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