GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 846 Committee Substitute Favorable 5/12/09

 Short Title:
 Study State Water & Wastewater Infrastructure.
 (Public)

 Sponsors:
 Referred to:

elelled to.

March 30, 2009

1		A BILL TO BE ENTITLED	
2	AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON WATER AND		
3	WASTEWAT	ER INFRASTRUCTURE TO ASSESS THE STATE'S NEEDS FOR THE	
4	FUNDING (OF WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN NORTH	
5	CAROLINA.		
6		eas, North Carolina is projected to grow by approximately three million people	
7		f more than 12.2 million between now and 2030, making North Carolina the	
8	7th most populou		
9		eas, there are 535 public water systems and 409 public sewer systems owned	
10	· ·	nits of local government statewide; and	
11		eas, North Carolina's public water systems are projected to serve 70 percent	
12	more people by 2030 than they did in 2006; and		
13		eas, steady economic growth is predicated upon the availability of adequate	
14		vater infrastructure; and	
15	Whereas, the Water 2030 study completed in 2006 revealed that \$16.63 billion is		
16	needed in water and sewer improvements between 2005 and 2030; and		
17		eas, the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources	
18	conducts needs surveys of water and sewer systems in North Carolina; and		
19	Whereas, much of the existing infrastructure has outlived its projected life, resulting		
20	in a need for replacement and leading to the loss of 35 billion gallons of water each year; and		
21	Whereas, the price paid for water has increased 160 percent since 1986; and		
22	Whereas, the participation of State government in the funding of public water and		
23	wastewater infrastructure through the provision of loans and grants is essential to the State's		
24	public health, economic, and environmental future; Now, therefore,		
25	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:		
26	SECTION 1.(a) There is created the Legislative Study Commission on Water and		
27		structure. The Commission shall consist of 16 members appointed as follows:	
28	(1)	Four members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of	
29		the House of Representatives.	
30	(2)	Four members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the	
31		Senate.	
32	(3)	Two members appointed by the Governor.	
33	(4)	The Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural	
34		Resources or the Secretary's designee.	
35	(5)	The Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Commerce or the	
36		Secretary's designee.	



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	General Assem	bly Of North Carolina	Session 2009		
1 2	(6)	The President of the North Carolina Rural Economic Dev the President's designee.	velopment Center or		
3 4	(7)	The Executive Director of the North Carolina Clean Trust Fund or the Executive Director's designee.	Water Management		
5	(8)	The Executive Director of the North Carolina League	of Municipalities or		
6	(0)	the Executive Director's designee.	or municipalities of		
7	(9)	The Executive Director of the North Carolina Asso	ociation of County		
8	(\mathcal{I})	Commissioners or the Executive Director's designee.	Schatton of County		
9	SEC	TION 1.(b) The Legislative Study Commission on Wa	ter and Wastewater		
10		all focus on the development of an ongoing process to id			
10		North Carolina General Assembly on statewide wate			
11	1	eeds and to improve the delivery of State appropriated was			
12			aler and wastewater		
13 14		Commission shall specifically do all of the following:	minizing water and		
	(1)	Evaluate the information provided through the draws	-		
15		wastewater needs assessment prepared by the Enviro			
16 17		Agency (EPA) every four years, the drinking water an			
17		surveys currently done by the North Carolina Departm			
18 19		and Natural Resources in support of the EPA needs a			
20		compiled as part of Water 2030 by the North Carolin Davidonment Center, Inc. and any other existing da			
20		Development Center, Inc., and any other existing date determine what information currently exists and where t			
21		the data.	nere may be gaps m		
22	(2)	Conduct at least five meetings of stakeholders in location	a across the State as		
23 24	(2)	part of determining the ongoing method for regular			
24		reporting on the State's water and wastewater infrastructu			
26	(3)	Select a method for identifying and reporting on infrast			
20	(\mathbf{J})	future.	fucture needs in the		
28	(4)	Review infrastructure funding priorities currently set	out in State law to		
29	(+)	determine whether the priorities appropriately reflect			
30		pressing needs in light of future growth projections.	t the State's most		
31	(5)	Recommend changes to infrastructure funding priorities	and appropriations		
32	(\mathbf{J})	processes to ensure that funds are used to meet the S			
33		needs.	tate s most pressing		
34	(6)	Ascertain the capacity and role of the State in bridg	ting identified gans		
35	(0)	between funding priorities and available funds.	, mg identified gaps		
36	(7)	Determine what steps funding agencies can take to imp	rove the delivery of		
37	(')	existing funding programs, including the following optio	-		
38		a. Developing common application requirements;			
39		b. Scheduling regular joint meetings between funder	rs and applicants.		
40		c. Where projects are jointly funded, exploring o			
41		improve oversight responsibilities; and	ptions to share and		
42		d. Coordinating reporting requirements to produce	a single integrated		
43		funders report on an annual basis.	u single integrated		
44	(8)	Prepare a report on the key findings of the work of the Co	ommission		
45	· · ·	TION 1.(c) The Speaker of the House of Representative			
46		f the Senate shall each designate a co-chair. The Comm			
47	anytime upon the joint call of the co-chairs. A quorum of the Commission shall be a majority				
48	• •	of its members.			
49		ncies on the Commission shall be filled by the same app	ointing authority as		
50	mode the initial		autionty us		

50 made the initial appointment.

Subject to the approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Commission 1 2 may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

3 The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative Services Officer, 4 shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House of 5 Representatives' and the Senate's Supervisors of Clerks shall assign clerical support staff to the 6 Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the 7 Commission.

8 In addition, the State agencies and nonprofits serving on the Commission shall 9 cooperate in providing information and additional staff resources as needed to accomplish the 10 work of the Commission.

11 The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties, may exercise all 12 powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4. The 13 Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as provided by 14 G.S. 120-32.02.

15 Members of the Commission shall receive subsistence and travel expenses at the 16 rates set forth in G.S. 120-3.1, 138-5, or 138-6, as appropriate.

17 SECTION 1.(d) The Legislative Study Commission on Water and Wastewater 18 Infrastructure may submit an interim report to the 2009 General Assembly, Regular Session 19 2010, on or before May 1, 2010, and the Commission shall submit a final report on its findings 20 and recommendations no later than the convening of the 2011 Regular Session of the General 21 Assembly. The Commission shall terminate upon the earlier of the filing of its final report or 22 the convening of the 2011 General Assembly.

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SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2009.