GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 757

Short Title:	itle: Statewide Water Plan/Prog. Eval. Recommend. (Publi	
Sponsors:	Senators Clodfelter and Hartsell.	
Referred to:	Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.	

March 24, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE STRATEGIC PLAN AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** The State Water Infrastructure Commission shall develop a statewide 9 strategic plan for water and wastewater infrastructure funding by May 1, 2010, as recommended in the Final Report to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight 10 11 Committee titled "North Carolina's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Funding Lacks Strategic Focus and Coordination," (Report Number 2008-12-07). A needs assessment of the 12 13 State's water and wastewater infrastructure shall be conducted as part of the statewide strategic 14 The needs assessment shall include information and analysis regarding all of the plan. following: the condition of existing infrastructure, the demand for improvements, the cost of 15 improvements, the financial needs of local governments, and any other areas that the 16 17 Commission determines are relevant to compiling a complete assessment of the State's water and wastewater infrastructure needs. The data gathered from the needs assessment shall be 18 19 used to assist in the development of the statewide strategic plan. The statewide strategic plan 20 shall establish the vision, goals, and objectives for water and wastewater infrastructure funding in North Carolina. The statewide strategic plan shall establish the State's role in financing 21 22 water and wastewater infrastructure needs within the context of focus areas, including water 23 supply, water quality, public health, and economic development and collectively across funding 24 entities. The statewide strategic plan shall include components to do all of the following:

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(1) Identify the State's water and wastewater infrastructure needs and establish statewide priorities for meeting those needs. As part of this component, the State Water Infrastructure Commission shall address the need to have a single database that is a complete inventory of the State's water and wastewater infrastructure, that is continuously maintained, and that provides the ability to analyze in a meaningful way the current and future ability of the State to meet its water and wastewater infrastructure needs.

32 (2) Establish statewide policy goals for water and wastewater infrastructure
33 funding that are linked to performance measures and that will indicate to the
34 General Assembly that policy goals are being met. The State Water
35 Infrastructure Commission shall also clarify the role of the State and local
36 governments in providing financing for water and wastewater infrastructure
37 owned and operated at the local level.



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-	(3)	Determine funding strategies for water and wastewater infrastructure, including sources of funding, the appropriate mix of grants and loans, and funding allocation based on statewide priorities. As part of this component, the statewide strategic plan shall identify how best to fund the State match with recurring State funds for the revolving loan programs. To assist the General Assembly in determining an appropriate mix of grants and loans, the statewide strategic plan shall, with the assistance of the Local Government Commission, develop criteria that may be used to identify which systems with water and wastewater infrastructure needs appear to have the resources	
		to repay loans and which systems appear to lack those resources and so	
		would require grants.	
	(4)	Identify any statutory changes required to implement the statewide strategic	
	CECT	plan developed pursuant to this act.	
	SECTION 2. The State Water Infrastructure Commission shall contract with an independent entity to develop a statewide strategic plan for water and wastewater infrastructure		
	pursuant to this a		
	1	TON 3. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the	
		ommerce, and the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund shall	
	cooperate with t	he State Water Infrastructure Commission and any entity with whom the	
	Commission cont	racts to develop a statewide strategic water infrastructure plan pursuant to this	
		Carolina Rural Economic Development Center, if it receives State funds, shall	
		on of receiving those State funds, cooperate with the State Water Infrastructure	
		any entity with whom the Commission contracts to develop a statewide	
	ē	frastructure plan pursuant to this act.	
		TON 4. Funds in the amount of three hundred seventy-five thousand dollars	
		priated to the Clean Water Management Trust Fund for the 2009-2010 fiscal sferred to the Office of the Governor to be used to pay for services rendered	
		contract. In addition, funds in the amount of three hundred seventy-five	
		(\$375,000) appropriated to the North Carolina Rural Economic Development	
		09-2010 fiscal year shall also be transferred to the Office of the Governor to	
		ay for services rendered pursuant to the contract.	
	SECT		