

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE BILL 740\***

Short Title: Water Resources Grant Funds.-AB (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Allen, Dickson (Primary Sponsors); Alexander, Bryant, England, Faison, Insko, Pierce, Walker, E. Warren, and Wray.

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Referred to: Environment and Natural Resources, if favorable, Appropriations.

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March 15, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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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

1 governments, water users, other stakeholders, and the Department of Environment and  
2 Natural Resources. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources may use up  
3 to forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) each fiscal year for costs of administering this act.

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

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

22 **SECTION 3.(a)** The funds allocated to a regional council of government by  
23 Section 1 of this act shall be paid in two equal installments. The first payment to a  
24 regional council of government shall be made only after compliance with subdivision  
25 (1) of subsection (b) of this section, and the second payment shall be made only after  
26 compliance with subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section.

27 **SECTION 3.(b)** Each regional council of government receiving funds under  
28 this act shall comply with the following requirements:

- 29 (1) By September 1, 2007, the council shall present to the Department of  
30 Environment and Natural Resources and the Fiscal Research Division  
31 the council's annual plan of work, goals, objectives, and proposed  
32 expenditures.
- 33 (2) By March 1, 2008, the council shall submit to the Department of  
34 Environment and Natural Resources and the Fiscal Research Division  
35 a report of the council's accomplishments and of the actual  
36 expenditures of funds appropriated by this act during the previous  
37 reporting period.

38 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.