

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2009**

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**HOUSE BILL 1746\***

**Committee Substitute Favorable 6/9/10**  
**Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 6/16/10**

Short Title: Water Infrastructure Information Needs.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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May 18, 2010

1                           **A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

2   AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL  
3   RESOURCES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES, TO  
4   ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO: (1) DEVELOP A STATEWIDE SURVEY TO  
5   SUPPLEMENT THE CURRENT INFORMATION USED TO ASSESS THE STATE'S  
6   WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS; (2) DEVELOP A PLAN  
7   FOR INCORPORATING THE INFORMATION COMPILED FROM THE UNITED  
8   STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SURVEY INTO THE STATE  
9   WATER SUPPLY PLAN; AND (3) DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A  
10   STATEWIDE WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCE AND  
11   FUNDING DATABASE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY  
12   COMMISSION ON WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

13       Whereas, the two primary sources of data currently available to determine the  
14   State's water and wastewater needs include the United States Environmental Protection Agency  
15   surveys of publicly owned water and wastewater systems conducted every four years by the  
16   Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the North Carolina Rural Economic  
17   Development Center Water 2030 Initiative; and

18       Whereas, the Water 2030 Initiative, completed in 2005, provides a snapshot of  
19   projected water and wastewater infrastructure needs through 2030, but was funded as a onetime  
20   overview, and has not been fully updated since 2005; and

21       Whereas, while both the United States Environmental Protection Agency surveys  
22   and Water 2030 Initiative are useful tools, there continue to be gaps in the information used to  
23   determine the State's water and wastewater infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to  
24   economic development and growth-related infrastructure needs, water system efficiency  
25   measures, and costs related to the development of new water sources; Now, therefore,  
26   The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

27       **SECTION 1.** Task Force. – The Department of Environment and Natural  
28   Resources, the Department of Commerce, the Department of State Treasurer, the Clean Water  
29   Management Trust Fund, the State Water Infrastructure Commission, the Office of Information  
30   Technology Services, the North Carolina League of Municipalities, the North Carolina  
31   Association of County Commissioners, the Rural Economic Development Center, and the  
32   Environmental Finance Center at the School of Government at the University of North Carolina  
33   at Chapel Hill shall establish a task force to improve the collection and utilization of  
34   information related to State water and wastewater infrastructure needs. The Department of  
35   Environment and Natural Resources shall be the lead agency for the task force. The task force



1 may also work with other interested stakeholders in its discretion. The responsibilities and  
2 duties of the task force shall include all of the following:

3       (1) To develop a statewide survey to build on the base of the existing United  
4 States Environmental Protection Agency water and wastewater infrastructure  
5 survey process that will provide a more accurate assessment of statewide  
6 water and wastewater infrastructure needs.

- 7           a. The survey shall be designed to address the following information  
8 gaps that have been identified in the current information sources:  
9              1. Information on water and wastewater infrastructure needs  
10             related to economic development and population growth.  
11              2. Information on water and wastewater system service areas.  
12              3. Information on drinking water needs relevant to determining  
13             the need and the cost of proposed reservoir construction.  
14              4. Information on infrastructure needs to address failing water  
15             and wastewater systems.  
16              5. Information on the infrastructure needs related to water  
17             system efficiency to address the issue of water loss.

- 18           b. The task force shall consider how often the information provided by  
19             the survey should be updated.  
20           c. The task force shall consider requesting information to update the  
21             Water 2030 Initiative as part of the survey design.  
22           d. The task force shall consider how often to update the survey, and  
23             how best to formulate and summarize the survey results on the State's  
24             combined water and wastewater infrastructure needs in a concise and  
25             easily understood format for use by the General Assembly. The task  
26             force shall prepare a model report based on this format.

27       (2) To develop a plan to incorporate relevant information obtained from the  
28             existing United States Environmental Protection Agency survey and any  
29             statewide survey developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this section into  
30             the State water supply plan developed pursuant to G.S. 143-355(m). In  
31             devising the plan to incorporate the needs survey information into the State  
32             water supply plan, the task force shall consider possible modifications to the  
33             information collected as part of the local water supply plans or the  
34             methodology used to prepare the local water supply plans that would make it  
35             easier to incorporate the needs survey information into the State water  
36             supply plan.

37       (3) To recommend a plan for the establishment and maintenance of a statewide  
38             water and wastewater infrastructure resource and funding database, or  
39             alternative information systems or processes that are capable of  
40             consolidating and integrating statewide information on water and wastewater  
41             infrastructure needs, resources, and funding and making this information  
42             more accessible to applicants, government agencies, and policymakers. The  
43             task force shall consider the relative merits of a database and any proposed  
44             alternatives, taking into account estimated costs and the ability of each to  
45             meet the goals outlined in this section. In analyzing a database, the task force  
46             shall identify options for database system design and structure and delineate  
47             the categories of information to be compiled and indexed.

48       **SECTION 2.** Report. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
49             shall report the findings and recommendations of the task force to the Legislative Study  
50             Commission on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure by November 1, 2010. The report shall

1 include the estimated cost to implement the recommendations and any legislative changes  
2 required to implement the recommendations.

3       **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.