

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2013**

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**SENATE BILL 756\***

Short Title: PED Study of Water and Sewer Systems. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

May 15, 2014

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM EVALUATION  
3 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO DIRECT THE PROGRAM EVALUATION DIVISION  
4 TO STUDY THE BENEFITS THAT MAY RESULT FROM THE MERGER OF PUBLIC  
5 WATER SYSTEMS AND WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT  
6 WORKS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW  
7 COMMISSION.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** The Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee shall  
10 include in the 2014-2015 Work Plan for the Program Evaluation Division of the General  
11 Assembly a study of the benefits that may result from the merger of public water systems and  
12 wastewater collection and treatment works. The Program Evaluation Division shall specifically  
13 include the following in the study:

- 14 (1) Consideration of whether the benefits that have resulted from the merger of  
15 certain public water systems and certain wastewater collection and treatment  
16 works can be replicated for other systems. In considering this issue, the  
17 Program Evaluation Division shall investigate the performance of the  
18 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department, the Cape Fear Public Utility  
19 Authority, and Two Rivers Utilities.
- 20 (2) Whether the State can incentivize public water systems and wastewater  
21 collection and treatment works that provide service that is affordable,  
22 reliable, and compliant with all applicable laws to purchase, interconnect  
23 with, or enter into joint management agreements with public water systems  
24 and wastewater collection and treatment works that do not provide service  
25 that is affordable, reliable, and compliant with all applicable laws.
- 26 (3) Whether the State can allow public water systems and wastewater collection  
27 and treatment works that provide service that is affordable, reliable, and  
28 compliant with all applicable laws to apply for grant funding or other  
29 assistance on the behalf of public water systems and wastewater collection  
30 and treatment works that do not provide service that is affordable, reliable,  
31 and compliant with all applicable laws if the award of such funding is  
32 contingent on purchase, interconnection, or a joint management agreement  
33 between the systems.

34 **SECTION 2.** The Program Evaluation Division shall submit its findings and  
35 recommendations to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee and the



- 1 Environmental Review Commission at a date to be determined by the Joint Legislative
- 2 Program Evaluation Oversight Committee.
- 3       **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.