

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE BILL 1291\***

Short Title: Water Infrastructure Needs/Close Info Gaps. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Hoyle, Albertson; and Atwater.

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

May 20, 2010

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL  
2 RESOURCES, IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHERS, TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE  
3 SURVEY TO SUPPLEMENT THE CURRENT INFORMATION USED TO ASSESS  
4 THE STATE'S WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND TO  
5 DEVELOP A PLAN FOR INCORPORATING THE INFORMATION COMPILED FROM  
6 THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY SURVEYS INTO THE STATE  
7 WATER SUPPLY PLAN, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY  
8 COMMISSION ON WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

9  
10 Whereas, the data currently available to determine the State's water and wastewater  
11 needs are the Environmental Protection Agency surveys of publicly owned water and  
12 wastewater systems conducted every four years by the Department of Environment and Natural  
13 Resources and the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center Water 2030 report;  
14 and

15 Whereas, the Water 2030 report, completed in 2005, provides a snapshot of  
16 projected water and wastewater infrastructure needs through 2030, but was funded as a onetime  
17 overview, and has not been updated since 2005; and

18 Whereas, while both the EPA surveys and Water 2030 are useful tools, there  
19 continue to be gaps in the information used to determine the State's water and wastewater  
20 infrastructure needs, particularly with regard to economic development and growth related  
21 infrastructure needs, water system efficiency measures, and costs related to the development of  
22 new water sources; Now, therefore,

23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

24 **SECTION 1.(a)** Statewide survey of water and wastewater infrastructure needs to  
25 supplement EPA survey. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in  
26 conjunction with the Environmental Finance Center at the School of Government at the  
27 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Rural Economic Development Center, shall  
28 establish a task force to develop a statewide survey to build on the base of the existing  
29 Environmental Protection Agency water and wastewater infrastructure survey process that will  
30 provide a more accurate assessment of statewide water and wastewater infrastructure needs.  
31 The task force may also consider requesting information required to update the Water 2030  
32 report as part of the survey design. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
33 shall be the lead agency in this group effort.

34 The survey shall be designed to obtain information relevant to and that addresses the  
35 following information gaps that have been identified in the current databases:

- 36 (1) Information on water and wastewater infrastructure needs related to  
37 economic development and population growth.



- 1 (2) Information on water and wastewater system service areas.
- 2 (3) Information on drinking water needs relevant to determining the need and
- 3 the cost of proposed reservoir construction.
- 4 (4) Information on infrastructure needed to address failing water and wastewater
- 5 systems.
- 6 (5) Information on the infrastructure needs related to water system efficiency to
- 7 address the issue of water loss.

8 **SECTION 1.(b)** Update and reporting of survey information. – When designing  
9 the survey described in subsection (a) of this section, the task force shall also consider how  
10 often the information provided by the survey should be updated. The task force shall also  
11 consider how the survey results can be formulated and summarized to provide an updated and  
12 easily understood report for use by the General Assembly on combined water and wastewater  
13 infrastructure needs and shall develop a model and format for that report.

14 **SECTION 1.(c)** Reporting requirement for statewide survey plan. – The task force  
15 shall report its findings and recommendations and shall present the proposed statewide survey  
16 and the proposed methodology for conducting the survey to the Legislative Study Commission  
17 on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure by November 1, 2010. The report shall include the  
18 estimated cost to implement the survey and shall also include any legislative changes that may  
19 be needed to implement the proposed survey.

20 **SECTION 2.(a)** Plan to incorporate information from needs survey into State  
21 water supply plan. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall develop a  
22 plan to incorporate relevant information obtained from the Environmental Protection Agency  
23 surveys into the State water supply plan which is based on information provided by local water  
24 supply plans prepared pursuant to G.S. 143-355.1. In devising the plan to incorporate the needs  
25 survey information into the State water supply plan, the Department may consider whether  
26 there are modifications regarding the information collected as part of the local water supply  
27 plans or the methodology used to prepare the local water supply plans that would make it easier  
28 to incorporate the needs survey information into the State water supply plans, and if so, what  
29 those modifications would be.

30 **SECTION 2.(b)** Reporting requirement for plan to incorporate infrastructure needs  
31 survey information into State water supply plan. – The Department of Environment and Natural  
32 Resources shall present its plan for incorporating the information from the Environmental  
33 Protection Agency water and wastewater infrastructure needs surveys into the State water  
34 supply plan to the Legislative Study Commission on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure by  
35 November 1, 2010. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall include in its  
36 presentation the estimated cost of the plan and any legislative changes that may be required to  
37 implement the plan.

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