

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE DRH20059-MH-78 (03/09)

Short Title: Cape Fear Water Resources Availability Study. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Catlin, Szoka, and Glazier (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMISSION TO
3 CONDUCT A STUDY OF WATER RESOURCES AVAILABILITY IN THE CAPE
4 FEAR RIVER BASIN.
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
6 **SECTION 1.** The Environmental Review Commission, with the assistance of the
7 Department of Environment and Natural Resources, shall study the aggregate uses of
8 groundwater and surface water in or affecting the Cape Fear River Basin by all users,
9 including, but not limited to, public water systems, industrial facilities, and agricultural
10 operations. The study will include all of the following elements: (i) a summary of the current
11 and 50-year projected water-use demands along with the available water supplies for those
12 portions of Alamance, Bladen, Brunswick, Caswell, Chatham, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin,
13 Durham, Guilford, Harnett, Hoke, Lee, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Orange, Pender,
14 Randolph, Richmond, Robeson, Rockingham, Sampson, Scotland, and Wake counties within
15 the Cape Fear River Basin; (ii) an evaluation of the adequacy of currently available supplies to
16 meet the expected long-range needs for all water demands, including the identification of those
17 areas of the basin that do not have a sustainable long-term water supply for the anticipated
18 growth of that area; (iii) the identification of potential conflicts among the various users and
19 recommendations for developing and enhancing coordination among users and groups of users
20 in order to avoid or minimize those conflicts; and (iv) an enhanced review of the portions of the
21 Cape Fear River Basin within Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties addressing the
22 increased demands on groundwater and limited surface water options in that area.
23 The findings of the study will be included within the Department's Cape Fear River
24 Basin Plan. All the information and any analytical tools, such as models, employed in the
25 conduct of the study will be made available electronically for public review and use from the
26 Web site of the Department's Division of Water Resources.
27 The Environmental Review Commission may submit an interim report to the 2016
28 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly and shall submit a final report of its findings
29 and recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the 2017 General Assembly.
30 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

