

May 17, 2010

H 1748. CONSERVE & PROTECT AG WATER RESOURCES. Filed 5/17/10. *DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DESIGN A COST SHARE PROGRAM TO ASSIST FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS WHO IMPLEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT WATER RESOURCES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE USE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE.*

As title indicates. Also directs the agencies to encourage voluntary practices to conserve water, increase private water use efficiency, and increase water storage capacity. Directs the agencies to report to the Legislative Study Commission on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure the estimated cost for the cost share program and any required legislative changes by November 1, 2010.

Intro. by Crawford.

STUDY

June 9, 2010

H 1748. CONSERVE & PROTECT AG WATER RESOURCES. Filed 5/17/10. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 1st edition.

Adds provision to direct the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department) and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation (Division) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to continue to work with the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, other agricultural organizations, and farmers to develop a plan that will identify agricultural water infrastructure needs that are not accounted for in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's water infrastructure needs surveys. Specifies that the plan is to include (1) a mechanism for reporting the data gathered to the General Assembly, (2) methods for identifying current and future agricultural water-use needs and to ensure that those needs are met, (3) methods to identify best management practices for water conservation and efficiency by agricultural water users in NC, and (4) a schedule for regularly updating the plan.

Clarifies that the Department and DENR are to work with farmers and agricultural landowners to encourage voluntary practices that increase the water storage capacity of agricultural lands (was, increase water storage capacity by landowners).

Requires the November 1, 2010, report by the Department and DENR to the Legislative Study Commission on Water and Wastewater Infrastructure to include information on the (1) development of the agricultural water infrastructure needs survey, (2) identification of best management practices for water conservation and water efficiency by North Carolina's agricultural water users, (3) the design of the cost-share program, and (4) estimated costs of the survey and cost-share program including implementation and funding sources (was, report on the progress in designing a cost-share program and estimated cost of establishing and maintaining the program).

Clarifies that *landowners* means *agricultural landowners*.

Adds whereas clauses. Makes conforming changes to the title.

June 16, 2010

H 1748. CONSERVE & PROTECT AG WATER RESOURCES. Filed 5/17/10. House committee substitute makes the following changes to 2nd edition.

Makes technical changes only including referring to a plan to identify agricultural water infrastructure needs instead of to the development of a survey.

July 28, 2010

SL 2010-149 (H 1748). CONSERVE AND PROTECT AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES. *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO: (1) CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA FARM BUREAU FEDERATION, OTHER AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND FARMERS IN THE STATE*

TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO IDENTIFY AND REPORT AGRICULTURAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS; (2) ENCOURAGE VOLUNTARY PRACTICES THAT CONSERVE AND PROTECT WATER RESOURCES; AND (3) DESIGN A COST-SHARE PROGRAM TO ASSIST FARMERS AND AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS WHO IMPLEMENT BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT WATER RESOURCES RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL USE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE. Summarized in *Daily Bulletin* 5/17/10, 6/9/10, and 6/16/10. Enacted July 22, 2010. Effective July 22, 2010.