



SENATE BILL 547: Interconnection of Public Water Systems

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Re-ref to State and Local Government.	Date:	April 20, 2015
	If fav, re-ref to Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources		
Introduced by:	Sen. Hartsell	Prepared by:	R. Erika Churchill
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition S547-CSST-24		Committee Counsel

SUMMARY: *The proposed committee substitute for Senate Bill 547 would require the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to identify water systems within the same river basin that may potentially interconnect and so notify those systems. The PCS would also appropriate \$500,000 for the Regional Water Supply Planning Revolving Fund.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The PCS would add a new subsection to G.S. 130A-317, which governs submission and approval of public water system plans, requiring the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to identify, and notify, water systems that appear capable of interconnectivity with another system located in the same river basin that appear to have unallocated capacity to expand and that interconnectivity would promote public health, protect the environment, or ensure compliance with established drinking water rules. The notice shall copy the Local Government Commission.

Once notified, the systems could start discussions regarding options for any potential interconnectivity. The Local Government Commission is to assist with any questions regarding liabilities of the systems and potential impacts of changes to the operational structure of the systems.

If the Department requests additional information from a specific system on the potential for interconnectivity, the system is to respond. If the system fails to respond, the Department may deny an application for construction or alteration of the system until the response is received by the Department. The Department may not use this authority to require an environmental impact statement or engineering reports.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Effective when it becomes law.

O. Walker Reagan
Director



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