

Article 7.

Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission.

Part 1. Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission.

**§ 77-90. Definitions.**

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1) "Commission" means the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission.
- (2) "Roanoke River Basin" or "Basin" means that land area designated as the Roanoke River Basin by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality pursuant to G.S. 143-215.8B and the Virginia State Water Control Board pursuant to Code of Virginia § 62.1-44.38. (2002-177, s. 1; 2015-241, s. 14.30(u).)

**§ 77-91. Commission established; purposes.**

There is established the Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission. The Commission shall be composed of members from the State of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The purposes of the Commission shall be to:

- (1) Provide guidance and make recommendations to local, state, and federal legislative and administrative bodies, and to others as it deems necessary and appropriate, for the use, stewardship, and enhancement of the water, and other natural resources, for all citizens within the Basin.
- (2) Provide a forum for discussion of issues affecting the Basin's water quantity and water quality and issues affecting other natural resources.
- (3) Promote communication, coordination, and education among stakeholders within the Basin.
- (4) Identify problems and recommend appropriate solutions.
- (5) Undertake studies and prepare, publish, and disseminate information through reports, and in other forms, related to water quantity, water quality, and other natural resources of the Basin. (2002-177, s. 1.)

**§ 77-92. Membership; terms of office; eligibility for appointment.**

(a) The Roanoke River Basin Bi-State Commission shall consist of 18 members with each state appointing nine members. The North Carolina delegation to the Commission shall consist of the six members of the General Assembly of North Carolina appointed to the North Carolina Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee and three nonlegislative members who represent different geographical areas of the North Carolina portion of the Basin and who reside within the Basin's watershed, to be appointed by the Governor of North Carolina. The Virginia delegation to the Commission shall be appointed as determined by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

(b) Members of the North Carolina House of Representatives, the North Carolina Senate, the Virginia House of Delegates, the Virginia Senate, and federal legislators, who have not been appointed to the Commission and whose districts include any portion of the Basin, may serve as nonvoting ex officio members of the Commission.

(c) Except as provided in this subsection, members of the North Carolina delegation to the Commission shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor of North Carolina. The Governor of North Carolina may not remove a legislative member of the North Carolina delegation to the Commission during the legislator's term of office, except that the Governor may remove any member of the North Carolina delegation to the Commission for misfeasance, malfeasance, or

nonfeasance as provided in G.S. 143B-13. A legislative member of the North Carolina delegation to the Commission who ceases to be a member of the General Assembly of North Carolina shall cease to be a member of the Commission. The terms of members of the Virginia delegation to the Commission shall be determined by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

(d) Each state's delegation to the Commission may meet separately to discuss Basin-related issues affecting their state and may report their findings independently of the Commission. (2002-177, s. 1; 2005-37, ss. 2, 3; 2012-200, s. 28(a).)

#### **§ 77-93. Powers and duties.**

- (a) The Commission shall have no regulatory authority.
- (b) To perform its duties and objectives, the Commission shall have the following powers:
  - (1) To develop rules and procedures for the conduct of its business or as may be necessary to perform its duties and carry out its objectives, including, but not limited to, selecting a chairman and vice-chairman, rotating chairmanships, calling meetings, and establishing voting procedures. Rules and procedures developed pursuant to this subdivision shall be effective upon an affirmative vote by a majority of the Commission members.
  - (2) To establish standing and ad hoc advisory committees pursuant to G.S. 77-94 and the Virginia Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee established pursuant to Chapter 5.4 of Title 62.1 of the Code of Virginia, which shall be constituted in a manner to ensure a balance between recognized interests. The Commission shall determine the purpose of each advisory committee.
  - (3) To seek, apply for, accept, and expend gifts, grants and donations, services, and other aid from public or private sources. With the exception of funds provided by the planning district commissions, councils of governments, and commissions and funds appropriated by the General Assemblies of Virginia and North Carolina, the Commission may accept funds only after an affirmative vote by a majority of the members of the Commission or by following any other procedures that are established by the Commission for the conduct of its business.
  - (4) To establish a nonprofit corporation to assist in the details of administering its affairs and in raising funds.
  - (5) To enter into contracts and execute all instruments necessary or appropriate.
  - (6) To perform any lawful acts necessary or appropriate for the furtherance of its work. (2002-177, s. 1; 2012-200, s. 28(b).)

#### **§ 77-94. Standing and ad hoc committees.**

To facilitate communication among stakeholders in the Basin, and to maximize participation by all interested parties, the Commission shall establish both standing and ad hoc committees. The Commission shall appoint the members of the standing and ad hoc committees in accordance with guidelines adopted by the Commission. The standing committees shall include all of the following:

- (1) Permit holders. – The Commission shall identify those entities that hold permits issued by a federal, state, or local regulatory agency pertaining to the water of the Basin. The entities may recommend representatives to be appointed to the committees by the Commission.

- (2) Roanoke River Basin interest groups. – The Commission shall identify interest groups that may recommend representatives to be appointed to the committees by the Commission.
- (3) Public officials and governmental entities. – The committees shall be composed of representatives of each county, city, and town located completely or partially within the Basin. Also, other governmental entities that the Commission deems appropriate may recommend one member to be appointed to the committees by the Commission. The committees may also include the United States Senators from North Carolina and Virginia or their designees, and any member of the United States House of Representatives or the Representative's designee, whose district includes any portion of the Basin, if the members elect to serve on the committees.
- (4) Agriculture, forestry, and soil and water conservation districts. – The Commission shall identify persons who represent agricultural and forestry interests throughout the Basin and representatives from the soil and water conservation districts within the Basin and shall appoint representatives from these groups to the committees. (2002-177, s. 1.)

**§ 77-95. Staffing and support.**

(a) The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality shall provide staff support to the Commission. Additional staff may be hired or contracted by the Commission through funds raised by or provided to it. The duties and compensation of any additional staff shall be determined and fixed by the Commission, within available resources.

(b) All agencies of the State of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia shall cooperate with the Commission and, upon request, shall assist the Commission in fulfilling its responsibilities. The North Carolina Secretary of Environmental Quality and the Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources or their designees shall each serve as the liaison between their respective state agencies and the Commission. (2002-177, s. 1; 2015-241, ss. 14.30(u), (v).)

**§ 77-96. Funding.**

(a) The Commission shall annually adopt a budget that shall include the Commission's estimated expenses. Funding for the Commission shall be shared and apportioned between the State of North Carolina and the Commonwealth of Virginia. The appropriation of public funds to the Commission shall be provided through each state's regular process for appropriating public funds. The North Carolina councils of governments and commissions named in G.S. 77-103(b)(5) shall bear a proportion of North Carolina's share of the expenses, which may be in the form of in-kind contributions.

(b) The Commission shall designate a fiscal agent.

(c) The accounts and records of the Commission showing the receipt and disbursement of funds from whatever source derived shall be in the form that the North Carolina Auditor and the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts prescribe, provided that the accounts shall correspond as nearly as possible to the accounts and records for such matters maintained by similar enterprises. The accounts and records of the Commission shall be subject to an annual audit by the North Carolina Auditor and the Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts or their legal representatives, and the costs of the audit services shall be borne by the Commission. The results of the audits shall be

delivered as part of the annual report required in G.S. 77-98 by October 1 of each year to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly of North Carolina, and as provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia. (2002-177, s. 1; 2017-57, s. 14.1(b); 2020-74, s. 14(a).)

**§ 77-97. Compensation and expenses of Commission members.**

(a) The appointed members of the North Carolina delegation to the Commission shall receive per diem, subsistence, and travel expenses as follows:

- (1) Commission members who are members of the General Assembly at the rate established in G.S. 120-3.1.
- (2) Commission members who are officials or employees of the State or of local government agencies at the rate established in G.S. 138-6.
- (3) All other Commission members at the rate established in G.S. 138-5.

(b) The members of the Virginia delegation to the Commission shall receive compensation as provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

(c) All expenses shall be paid from funds appropriated or otherwise available to the Commission. (2002-177, s. 1.)

**§ 77-98. Annual report.**

The Commission shall submit an annual report, including the annual audit required by G.S. 77-96 and any recommendations, on or before 1 October of each year in which the Commission meets to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly of North Carolina, and as provided by the Commonwealth of Virginia. (2002-177, s. 1; 2007-495, s. 22; 2020-74, s. 14(b); 2024-45, s. 30(a).)

**§ 77-99. Termination.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina may terminate the Commission by repealing this Part. The Commission shall terminate if the General Assembly of Virginia repeals the provisions of the Code of Virginia that are comparable to this Part. (2002-177, s. 1.)

**§§ 77-100 through 77-102: Reserved for future codification purposes.**

Part 2. Roanoke River Basin Advisory Committee.

**§ 77-103: Repealed by Session Laws 2011-266, s. 1.25(a), effective July 1, 2011.**

**§ 77-104: Repealed by Session Laws 2011-266, s. 1.25(a), effective July 1, 2011.**

**§ 77-105: Repealed by Session Laws 2011-266, s. 1.25(a), effective July 1, 2011.**

**§ 77-106: Repealed by Session Laws 2011-266, s. 1.25(a), effective July 1, 2011.**

**§ 77-107: Reserved for future codification purposes.**

**§ 77-108: Reserved for future codification purposes.**

**§ 77-109: Reserved for future codification purposes.**