

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1552

Short Title: Upper Neuse River Basin Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko; Allen, Cole, Crawford, Fox, Hackney, Hensley, Luebke, Michaux, Mitchell, Mosley, and Wainwright.

Referred to: Environment, if favorable, Appropriations.

May 28, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE UPPER NEUSE RIVER BASIN
2 ASSOCIATION, INC., FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING AND
3 IMPLEMENTING A MODEL COOPERATIVE STATE-LOCAL WATER
4 RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND WATER QUALITY PROTECTION PLAN
5 FOR THE UPPER NEUSE RIVER BASIN.
6

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 Section 1. The General Assembly finds that:

9 (1) The water resources of the Upper Neuse River Basin provide an
10 essential and high quality supply of water needed to meet municipal,
11 industrial, and agricultural needs.

12 (2) The water resources of the Upper Neuse River Basin are essential for
13 wildlife habitat protection, water quality management, recreational
14 activities, and other purposes.

15 (3) Management and protection of the quality and quantity of water in the
16 Upper Neuse River Basin are essential to the future economic vitality of
17 the several counties and municipalities that have planning and zoning
18 jurisdiction in the Upper Neuse River Basin.

1 (4) As provided for under Part 1 of Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General
2 Statutes comprehensive and coordinated State-local efforts are needed
3 to develop and implement plans that provide adequate, long-term
4 management and protection of water resources in river basins and
5 segments of river basins, including the Upper Neuse River Basin.

6 (5) It would be beneficial for the State to support development of a model
7 State-local watershed management approach in North Carolina, as
8 envisioned in Part 1 of Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General
9 Statutes, enacted during the 1997 Session Laws. The Upper Neuse
10 River Basin Association, Inc., ("Association") proposes to develop such
11 a model approach.

12 Section 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Upper Neuse
13 River Basin Association, Inc., for the 1998-99 fiscal year the sum of three hundred
14 thousand dollars (\$300,000) for the purpose of a cooperative, comprehensive, and
15 integrated State-local watershed management plan for the Upper Neuse River Basin, to
16 serve as a model watershed management approach for river basins and sub-basins in
17 North Carolina.

18 Section 3. The Upper Neuse Watershed Management Plan shall comply with
19 the requirements of G.S. 143-214.14(g).

20 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other appropriate
21 State agencies shall provide technical assistance to the Association during the
22 development of the Association's plan. The Association shall actively solicit the input
23 and assistance of the agencies during the identification of goals and objectives,
24 development of performance indicators and benchmarks, and preparation of the plan.

25 Section 4. The funds appropriated under this act are not adequate for the actual
26 implementation of all or part of the recommendations included in the final watershed
27 management plan. The Association and its member governments shall work with State
28 and federal agencies, and private and nonprofit organizations and individuals to obtain
29 funding support for implementation of the plan.

30 Section 5. The Association shall report on all of its activities and programs to
31 the Environmental Review Commission on or before March 1 of each fiscal year,
32 beginning in 1999, through completion of the final plan. The report shall include
33 information on the Association's activities and accomplishments during the current fiscal
34 year, itemized expenditures for development of the plan, major planned activities and
35 accomplishments for at least the next 12 months, and anticipated expenditures with
36 sources of funding for the next 12 months.

37 Section 6. For purposes of this act, "Upper Neuse River Basin" means all of the
38 watershed area that drains that part of the Neuse River Basin and its tributary streams that
39 are located above, or terminate at the Falls Lake Reservoir Dam. The Upper Neuse River
40 Basin is approximately 770-square miles in area and comprises all or part of six counties
41 and eight municipalities. It comprises about thirteen percent (13%) of the entire Neuse
42 River Basin.

43 Section 7. This act becomes effective July 1, 1998.