

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025**

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**SENATE BILL 605**

Short Title: IBT Subbasin/TMDL Transport Factor. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Sawrey and P. Newton (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 26, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO ELIMINATE SUBBASIN DESIGNATIONS AND REMOVE THE  
REQUIREMENT FOR AN INTERBASIN TRANSFER CERTIFICATE FOR WATER  
TRANSFERS BETWEEN SUBBASINS WITHIN THE SAME MAJOR RIVER BASIN  
AND TO REVISE 2020 FARM ACT TMDL TRANSPORT FACTOR CALCULATION  
APPLICABILITY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**ELIMINATE SUBBASIN DESIGNATIONS FOR IBT PROCESS**

**SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 143-215.22G reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143-215.22G. Definitions.**

In addition to the definitions set forth in G.S. 143-212 and G.S. 143-213, the following definitions apply to this Part.

...

(1b) "River basin" means any of the following river basins designated on the map entitled "Major River Basins and Sub-basins in North Carolina" and filed in the Office of the Secretary of State on 16 April 1991. The term "river basin" includes any portion of the river basin that extends into another state. Any area outside North Carolina that is not included in one of the river basins listed in this subdivision comprises a separate river basin.

- |               |                |   |
|---------------|----------------|---|
| a.            | 1-1            | Broad River.  |
| <del>b.</del> | <del>2-1</del> | <del>Haw River.</del>   |
| <del>c.</del> | <del>2-2</del> | <del>Deep River.</del>  |
| d.            | 2-3            | Cape Fear <del>River.</del> <u>River, which includes Haw River (2-1), Deep River (2-2), South River (2-4), and Northeast Cape Fear River (2-5).</u> |
| <del>e.</del> | <del>2-4</del> | <del>South River.</del>   |
| <del>f.</del> | <del>2-5</del> | <del>Northeast Cape Fear River.</del>   |
| g.            | 2-6            | New River.  |
| h.            | 3-1            | Catawba <del>River.</del> <u>River, which includes South Fork Catawba River (3-2).</u>  |
| <del>i.</del> | <del>3-2</del> | <del>South Fork Catawba River.</del>  |
| j.            | 4-1            | Chowan <del>River.</del> <u>River, which includes Meherrin River (4-2).</u>   |
| <del>k.</del> | <del>4-2</del> | <del>Meherrin River.</del>  |
| <del>l.</del> | <del>5-1</del> | <del>Nolichucky River.</del>  |



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1	m.	5-2	French Broad <del>River</del> River, which includes
2			<u>Nolichucky River (5-1) and Pigeon River</u>
3			<u>(5-3).</u>
4	<del>n.</del>	<del>5-3</del>	<del>Pigeon River.</del>
5	o.	6-1	Hiwassee River.
6	p.	7-1	Little Tennessee <del>River</del> River, which
7			<u>includes Tuskasegee (Tuckasegee) River</u>
8			<u>(7-2).</u>
9	<del>q.</del>	<del>7-2</del>	<del>Tuskasegee (Tuckasegee) River.</del>
10	r.	8-1	Savannah River.
11	s.	9-1	Lumber <del>River</del> River, which includes Big
12			<u>Shoe Heel Creek (9-2), and Waccamaw</u>
13			<u>River (9-3).</u>
14	<del>t.</del>	<del>9-2</del>	<del>Big Shoe Heel Creek.</del>
15	<del>u.</del>	<del>9-3</del>	<del>Waccamaw River.</del>
16	v.	9-4	Shallotte River.
17	w.	10-1	Neuse <del>River</del> River, which includes
18			<u>Contentnea Creek (10-2) and Trent River</u>
19			<u>(10-3).</u>
20	<del>x.</del>	<del>10-2</del>	<del>Contentnea Creek.</del>
21	<del>y.</del>	<del>10-3</del>	<del>Trent River.</del>
22	z.	11-1	New River.
23	aa.	12-1	Albemarle Sound.
24	bb.	13-1	Ocoee River.
25	cc.	14-1	Roanoke River.
26	dd.	15-1	Tar <del>River</del> River, which includes Fishing
27			<u>Creek (15-2) and Pamlico River and Sound</u>
28			<u>(15-3).</u>
29	<del>ee.</del>	<del>15-2</del>	<del>Fishing Creek.</del>
30	<del>ff.</del>	<del>15-3</del>	<del>Pamlico River and Sound.</del>
31	gg.	16-1	Watauga River.
32	hh.	17-1	White Oak River.
33	ii.	18-1	Yadkin (Yadkin-Pee Dee) <del>River</del> River,
34			<u>which includes South Yadkin River (18-2),</u>
35			<u>Uwharrie River (18-3), and Rocky River</u>
36			<u>(18-4).</u>
37	<del>jj.</del>	<del>18-2</del>	<del>South Yadkin River.</del>
38	<del>kk.</del>	<del>18-3</del>	<del>Uwharrie River.</del>
39	<del>ll.</del>	<del>18-4</del>	<del>Rocky River.</del>
40	...."		

**SECTION 1.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to water withdrawals or transfers initiated or modified on or after that date.

#### **REVISE 2020 FARM ACT TMDL TRANSPORT FACTOR CALCULATION APPLICABILITY**

**SECTION 2.** Section 15 of S.L. 2020-18, as amended by Section 14 of S.L. 2023-137, reads as rewritten:

"**SECTION 15.(a)** Notwithstanding 15A NCAC 02B .0701 (Nutrient Strategies Definitions), 15A NCAC 02B .0703 (Nutrient Offset Credit Trading), and 15A NCAC 02B .0713 (Neuse Nutrient Strategy: Wastewater Discharge Requirements), nutrient offset credits shall be

1 applied to a wastewater permit by applying the TMDL transport factor to the permitted  
2 wastewater discharge and to the nutrient offset credits as specified in the 1999 Phase I TMDL.

3 **"SECTION 15.(b)** Subsection (a) of this section applies only to wastewater discharge permit  
4 applications for a local government located in the Neuse River ~~Basin with a customer base of~~  
5 ~~fewer than 15,000 connections.~~Basin.

6 **"SECTION 15.(c)** The Department of Environmental Quality, in conjunction with affected  
7 parties, may begin the modeling necessary to determine new transport zones and delivery factors  
8 for the Neuse River Basin for point source discharges and nutrient offset credits. Once the  
9 Department has completed the watershed modeling, it shall provide the Environmental  
10 Management Commission a list of qualified professionals from which the Commission shall  
11 select at least two to validate the modeling. If each of the professionals selected by the  
12 Commission validate the model, the Commission may use the modeling and other information  
13 provided during the public comment period to adopt new transport zones and delivery factors, if  
14 warranted, by rule.

15 **"SECTION 15.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law. Subsection (a) of this  
16 section shall expire when the rule required by subsection (c) of this section becomes effective."  
17

#### 18 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

19 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
20 law.