

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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SENATE BILL 412

Short Title: Water Infrastructure Authority/Water Grants. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Hartsell (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources.

March 26, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER THE STATE'S FUNDING FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, TO TRANSFER THE CONSTRUCTION GRANTS AND LOANS SECTION OF THE DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY AND THE FINANCIAL SERVICES UNIT IN THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SECTION OF THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE AUTHORITY, TO PROVIDE THAT THE CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND SHALL NOT FUND WASTEWATER PROJECTS, TO TRANSFER ANNUALLY THE SUM OF TWENTY-FIVE MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND TO THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUND TO PROVIDE GRANT AND LOAN FUNDS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, TO DIRECT THE AUTHORITY AND THE NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER TO DEVELOP A TRANSITION PLAN TO MOVE THE WATER AND WASTEWATER PROGRAMS FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER TO THE AUTHORITY, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING STATUTORY CHANGES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 159G of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 5.

"North Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Authority.

"§ 159G-70. Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1) Authority. – The North Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Authority established by G.S. 159G-71.
- (2) Commission. – State Water Infrastructure Commission.
- (3) Strategic plan. – The statewide strategic plan for the State's water and wastewater infrastructure developed by the State Water Infrastructure Commission.

"§ 159G-71. North Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Authority.

(a) Established. – The North Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Authority is established as an independent authority. The Authority is located in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for administrative purposes.



1 **(b) Membership.** – The Authority shall consist of 12 members to be appointed as
2 follows:

3 **(1)** Four members appointed by the Governor.

4 **(2)** Four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.

5 **(3)** Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

6 **(c) Initial Appointments; Term Limits.** – To provide for a staggered membership, two
7 of the members initially appointed pursuant to subdivisions (b)(1), (b)(2), and (b)(3) of this
8 section shall serve two-year terms ending on June 30, 2016. When appointing the initial
9 members, the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of
10 Representatives shall designate which initial members shall serve two-year terms and which
11 shall serve four-year terms.

12 **(d) Terms.** – Except as provided for the initial members under subsection (c) of this
13 section, members shall serve four-year terms beginning July 1, 2014. No member shall serve
14 more than two full consecutive four-year terms or a total of 10 years. Members may continue to
15 serve beyond their terms until their successors are duly appointed, but any holdover shall not
16 affect the expiration date of the succeeding term. A member may be removed from the
17 Authority for cause by the official that appointed the member.

18 **(e) Qualifications.** – The office of Authority member is declared to be an office that
19 may be held concurrently with any other executive or appointive office, under the authority of
20 Section 9 of Article VI of the North Carolina Constitution. Persons shall be appointed to the
21 Authority based on their knowledge and expertise of funding and construction of water and
22 wastewater infrastructure.

23 **(f) Chair.** – The Governor shall appoint the initial chair of the Authority. The chair
24 appointed by the Governor shall call the first meeting, at which the members shall elect a chair.
25 The chair shall serve a term of one year. The Authority shall elect a chair annually.

26 **(g) Meetings.** – The Authority shall meet at least four times a year and may meet as
27 often as needed.

28 **(h) Quorum.** – A majority of the membership of the Authority constitutes a quorum for
29 the transaction of business.

30 **(i) Vacancies.** – A vacancy in the Authority or as chair of the Authority resulting from
31 the resignation of a member or otherwise is filled in the same manner in which the original
32 appointment was made. The term of an appointment to fill a vacancy is for the balance of the
33 unexpired term.

34 **(j) Compensation.** – Each member of the Authority shall receive per diem and
35 necessary travel and subsistence expenses in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 138-5. Per
36 diem, subsistence, and travel expenses of the Authority members shall be paid from funds made
37 available to the Authority through grants, appropriations, or any other sources.

38 **(k) Meeting Facilities.** – The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall
39 provide meeting facilities for the Authority and its staff as requested by the chair.

40 **§ 159G-72. Authority: purpose; duties.**

41 **(a) Purpose.** – The purpose of the Authority is to administer the State's funding for
42 water and wastewater infrastructure projects.

43 **(b) Duties.** – The Authority shall have the following duties:

44 **(1)** To award grants and loans for water and wastewater systems and to system
45 operators using a single application and project award process while
46 maintaining distinct funding priorities (i.e. public health, pollution control,
47 economic development).

48 **(2)** To implement and maintain the strategic plan for the State's water and
49 wastewater infrastructure developed by the Commission after that plan is
50 approved by the General Assembly.

- 1 (3) To develop and track performance measures to indicate how the Authority is
2 meeting the goals established by the strategic plan.
- 3 (4) To maintain the baseline inventory of water and wastewater infrastructure in
4 North Carolina developed by the Commission.
- 5 (5) To develop and maintain an integrated database designed to provide ad hoc
6 reporting capabilities based on performance measures identified by the
7 strategic plan.
- 8 (6) To conduct a detailed needs assessment to determine water and wastewater
9 infrastructure funding needs using the information provided by the
10 Commission.

11 **"§ 159G-73. Authority: reporting requirement.**

12 The chair of the Authority shall report each year by January 1 to the Joint Legislative
13 Commission on Governmental Operations, the Environmental Review Commission, the
14 Subcommittees on Natural and Economic Resources of the House of Representatives and
15 Senate Appropriations Committees, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly
16 regarding the implementation of its duties under G.S. 159G-72. The report shall include an
17 update on the initial implementation of the strategic plan and, after implementation, upon the
18 progress maintaining the strategic plan. The report shall also include a list of the projects
19 awarded grants or loans, a description of the project, the amount of the grant or loan awarded
20 for the project, the total cost of the project, and shall incorporate any additional information
21 outlined in G.S. 159G-26(b) that is available and appropriate for inclusion in the report.

22 **"§ 159G-74. Authority: Executive Director and staff.**

23 The Authority, as soon as practicable after its organization, shall select and appoint a
24 competent person in accordance with this section as Executive Director of the Authority. The
25 Executive Director shall be charged with the supervision of all activities under the jurisdiction
26 of the Authority and shall serve as the chief administrative officer of the Authority. Subject to
27 the approval of the Authority and the Director of the Budget, the Executive Director may
28 employ such clerical and other assistants as may be deemed necessary.

29 The person selected as Executive Director shall have had training and experience in funding
30 and construction of water and wastewater infrastructure. The salary of the Executive Director
31 shall be fixed by the Authority, and the Executive Director shall be allowed travel and
32 subsistence expenses in accordance with G.S. 138-6. The Executive Director's salary and
33 expenses shall be paid from funds made available to the Authority through grants,
34 appropriations, or any other sources. The term of office of the Executive Director shall be at the
35 pleasure of the Authority.

36 **"§ 159G-75. Cooperation among State agencies and other entities funding State strategic**
37 **water plan.**

38 Any State agency or other entity that receives State or federal funds for the purpose of
39 funding State water or wastewater infrastructure shall cooperate with the Authority in using and
40 disbursing those funds pursuant to the strategic plan. The Department of Commerce shall notify
41 the Authority of grants and loan guarantees that it awards pursuant to G.S. 143B-431(d) for
42 water and wastewater infrastructure under the Community Development Block Grant program
43 and of funds provided for water and wastewater infrastructure projects from the Industrial
44 Development Fund established in G.S. 143B-437.01. The Department of Commerce shall
45 provide information regarding those grants, loan guarantees, and projects as requested by the
46 Authority and shall cooperate with the Authority to provide that those funds are used and
47 disbursed pursuant to the strategic plan."

48 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 113A-252 reads as rewritten:

49 **"§ 113A-252. Definitions.**

50 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 1 (1) Council. – The advisory council for the Clean Water Management Trust
- 2 Fund.
- 3 (2) Economically distressed local government unit. – An economically
- 4 distressed county, as defined in G.S. 143B-437.01, or a local government
- 5 unit located in that county.
- 6 (3) Fund. – The Clean Water Management Trust Fund created pursuant to this
- 7 Article.
- 8 (4) Land. – Real property and any interest in, easement in, or restriction on real
- 9 property.
- 10 (4a) Local government unit. – Defined in G.S. 159G-20.
- 11 (4b) Stormwater quality project. – Defined in G.S. 159G-20.
- 12 (5) Trustees. – The trustees of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund.
- 13 ~~(6) Wastewater collection system. – Defined in G.S. 159G-20.~~
- 14 ~~(7) Wastewater treatment works. – Defined in G.S. 159G-20."~~

15 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 113A-253(c) reads as rewritten:

16 "(c) Fund Purposes. – Moneys from the Fund are appropriated annually to finance

17 projects to clean up or prevent surface water pollution and for land preservation in accordance

18 with this Article. Revenue in the Fund may be used for any of the following purposes:

- 19 (1) To acquire land for riparian buffers for the purposes of providing
- 20 environmental protection for surface waters and urban drinking water
- 21 supplies and establishing a network of riparian greenways for environmental,
- 22 educational, and recreational uses and to retire debt incurred for this purpose
- 23 under Article 9 of Chapter 142 of the General Statutes.
- 24 (2) To acquire conservation easements or other interests in real property for the
- 25 purpose of protecting and conserving surface waters and enhancing drinking
- 26 water supplies, including the development of water supply reservoirs, and to
- 27 retire debt incurred for this purpose under Article 9 of Chapter 142 of the
- 28 General Statutes.
- 29 (3) To coordinate with other public programs involved with lands adjoining
- 30 water bodies to gain the most public benefit while protecting and improving
- 31 water quality and to retire debt incurred for this purpose under Article 9 of
- 32 Chapter 142 of the General Statutes.
- 33 (4) To restore previously degraded lands to reestablish their ability to protect
- 34 water quality and to retire debt incurred for this purpose under Article 9 of
- 35 Chapter 142 of the General Statutes.
- 36 ~~(5) To repair failing wastewater collection systems and wastewater treatment~~
- 37 ~~works if the repair is a reasonable remedy for resolving an existing waste~~
- 38 ~~treatment problem and the repair is not for the purpose of expanding the~~
- 39 ~~system to accommodate future anticipated growth of a community.~~
- 40 ~~(6) To repair and eliminate failing septic tank systems, to eliminate illegal~~
- 41 ~~drainage connections, and to expand a wastewater collection system or~~
- 42 ~~wastewater treatment works if the expansion eliminates failing septic tank~~
- 43 ~~systems or illegal drainage connections.~~
- 44 (7) To finance stormwater quality projects.
- 45 (8) To facilitate planning that targets reductions in surface water pollution.
- 46 (8a) To finance innovative efforts, including pilot projects, to improve
- 47 stormwater management, to reduce pollutants entering the State's waterways,
- 48 to improve water quality, and to research alternative solutions to the State's
- 49 water quality problems.
- 50 (9) To fund operating expenses of the Board of Trustees and its staff.

1 (d) Limit on Operating and Administrative Expenses. – No more than two percent (2%)
2 of the annual balance of the Fund on 1 July or a total sum of one million two hundred fifty
3 thousand dollars (\$1,250,000), whichever is greater, may be used each fiscal year for
4 administrative and operating expenses of the Board of Trustees and its staff."

5 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 113A-254 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 113A-254. Grant requirements.**

7 (a) Eligible Applicants. – Any of the following are eligible to apply for a grant from the
8 Fund for the purpose of protecting and enhancing water quality:

9 (1) A State agency.

10 (2) A local government unit.

11 (3) A nonprofit corporation whose primary purpose is the conservation,
12 preservation, and restoration of our State's environmental and natural
13 resources.

14 (a1) Criteria. – The criteria developed by the Trustees under G.S. 113A-256 apply to
15 grants made under this Article. The common criteria for water projects set in G.S. 159G-23 and
16 the criteria set out in this section also apply to ~~wastewater collection system projects,~~
17 ~~wastewater treatment works projects, and stormwater quality projects. An application for a~~
18 ~~wastewater collection system project or a wastewater treatment works project that serves an~~
19 ~~economically distressed local government unit has priority.~~

20 (b) Matching Requirement. – The Board of Trustees shall establish matching
21 requirements for grants awarded under this Article. This requirement may be satisfied by the
22 donation of land to a public or private nonprofit conservation organization as approved by the
23 Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees may also waive the requirement to match a grant
24 pursuant to guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees.

25 (c) Restriction. – No grant shall be awarded under this article to satisfy compensatory
26 mitigation requirements under 33 USC § 1344 or G.S. 143-214.11.

27 ~~(d) Wastewater Limits. – A wastewater collection system project or a wastewater~~
28 ~~treatment works project is eligible for a grant under this Article only if it is a high unit cost~~
29 ~~project, as defined in G.S. 159G-20. A planning grant or a technical assistance grant for a~~
30 ~~regional wastewater collection system or a regional wastewater treatment works is not subject~~
31 ~~to the high unit cost threshold. A grant made under this Article for a wastewater collection~~
32 ~~system project or a wastewater treatment works project is subject to the cost limits and~~
33 ~~recipient limits set in G.S. 159G-36 for a grant awarded from the Wastewater Reserve.~~

34 (e) Stormwater Limits. – The amount of a grant awarded under this Article for a
35 stormwater quality project may not exceed the construction costs of the project. The total
36 amount of grants awarded under this Article to the same recipient for stormwater quality
37 projects for a fiscal year may not exceed the limit set in G.S. 159G-36(c)(1) for grants to the
38 same recipient from the Wastewater Reserve.

39 (f) Withdrawal. – An award of a grant under this Article is withdrawn if the grant
40 recipient fails to enter into a construction contract for the project within one year after the date
41 of the award, unless the Trustees find that the applicant has good cause for the failure. If the
42 Trustees find good cause for a recipient's failure, the Trustees must set a date by which the
43 recipient must take action or forfeit the grant."

44 **SECTION 5.** The Construction Grants and Loans Section of the Division of Water
45 Quality and the Financial Services Unit in the Public Water Supply Section of the Division of
46 Environmental Health are transferred from the Department of Environment and Natural
47 Resources to the North Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Authority established in
48 G.S. 159G-71. This transfer shall have all of the elements of a Type I transfer, as defined in
49 G.S. 143A-6.

50 **SECTION 6.** The North Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Authority
51 and the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Center shall cooperatively develop a

1 transition plan to transfer the Clean Water Partners Program and the water and wastewater
2 portion of the Economic Infrastructure Program that is currently operated by the North Carolina
3 Rural Economic Development Center and the unencumbered funds for those programs to the
4 North Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Authority. The plan shall provide for the
5 transition to be complete by July 1, 2015, and shall also provide for the continued monitoring
6 and funding of projects that have been awarded grants from the North Carolina Rural Economic
7 Development Center before July 1, 2015.

8 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 159G-20 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 159G-20. Definitions.**

10 The following definitions apply in this Chapter:

11 (1) Asset management plan. – The strategic and systematic application of
12 management practices applied to the infrastructure assets of a local
13 government unit in order to minimize the total costs of acquiring, operating,
14 maintaining, improving, and replacing the assets while at the same time
15 maximizing the efficiency, reliability, and value of the assets.

16 (1a) Authority. – North Carolina Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Authority
17 established under G.S. 159G-71.

18 ~~(1a)~~(1b) Construction costs. – The costs of planning, designing, and constructing
19 a project for which a loan or grant is available under this Chapter. The term
20 includes the following:

21 a. Excess or reserve capacity costs attributable to no more than 20-year
22 projected domestic growth plus ten percent (10%) unspecified
23 industrial growth.

24 b. Legal, fiscal, administrative, and contingency costs.

25 c. The fee imposed under G.S. 159G-24 to obtain a loan or grant for a
26 project.

27 d. A fee payable to the Department for a permit to implement a project
28 for which a loan or grant is obtained.

29 e. The cost to acquire real property or an interest in real property.

30 (2) CWSRF. – The Clean Water State Revolving Fund established in
31 G.S. 159G-22 as an account in the Water Infrastructure Fund.

32 (3) Department. – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

33 ~~(4) Repealed by Session Laws 2011-145, s. 13.3(ggg), effective July 1, 2011.~~

34 ~~(5) Division of Water Quality. – The Division of Water Quality of the~~
35 ~~Department of Environment and Natural Resources.~~

36 (5a) Division of Water Resources. – The Division of Water Resources of the
37 Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

38 (6) Drinking Water Reserve. – The Drinking Water Reserve established in
39 G.S. 159G-22 as an account in the Water Infrastructure Fund.

40 (7) DWSRF. – The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund established in
41 G.S. 159G-22 as an account in the Water Infrastructure Fund.

42 (8) Grant. – A sum of money given to an applicant without any obligation on the
43 part of the applicant to repay the sum.

44 (9) High-unit-cost project. – A project that results in an estimated average
45 household user fee for water and sewer service in the area served by the
46 project in excess of the high-unit-cost threshold. The average household user
47 fee is calculated for a continuous 12-month period.

48 (10) High-unit-cost threshold. – Either of the following amounts determined on
49 the basis of data from the most recent federal decennial census and updated
50 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual
51 estimated income adjustment factors:

- 1 a. One and one-half percent (1.5%) of the median household income in
2 an area that receives both water and sewer service.
- 3 b. Three-fourths of one percent (3/4%) of the median household income
4 in an area that receives only water service or only sewer service.
- 5 (10a) Investor-owned drinking water corporation. – A corporation owned by
6 investors and incorporated solely for the purpose of providing drinking water
7 services for profit.
- 8 (11) Loan. – A sum of money loaned to an applicant with an obligation on the
9 part of the applicant to repay the sum.
- 10 (12) Local Government Commission. – The Local Government Commission of
11 the Department of the State Treasurer, established in G.S. 159-3.
- 12 (13) Local government unit. – Any of the following:
13 a. A city as defined in G.S. 160A-1.
14 b. A county.
15 c. A consolidated city-county as defined in G.S. 160B-2.
16 d. A county water and sewer district created pursuant to Article 6 of
17 Chapter 162A of the General Statutes.
18 e. A metropolitan sewerage district or a metropolitan water district
19 created pursuant to Article 4 of Chapter 162A of the General
20 Statutes.
21 f. A water and sewer authority created under Article 1 of Chapter 162A
22 of the General Statutes.
23 g. A sanitary district created pursuant to Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter
24 130A of the General Statutes.
25 h. A joint agency created pursuant to Part 1 of Article 20 of Chapter
26 160A of the General Statutes.
27 i. A joint agency that was created by agreement between two cities and
28 towns to operate an airport pursuant to G.S. 63-56 and that provided
29 drinking water and wastewater services off the airport premises
30 before 1 January 1995.
- 31 (14) Nonprofit water corporation. – A nonprofit corporation that is incorporated
32 under Chapter 55A of the General Statutes solely for the purpose of
33 providing drinking water or wastewater services and is an eligible applicant
34 for a federal loan or grant from the Rural Utility Services Division, U.S.
35 Department of Agriculture.
- 36 (15) Public water system. – Defined in G.S. 130A-313.
- 37 (16) Reserved.
- 38 (17) Reserved.
- 39 ~~(18) Secretary. – The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.~~
- 40 (19) State. – The State of North Carolina.
- 41 (20) Stormwater quality project. – A project whose primary purpose is to prevent
42 or remove pollution from stormwater rather than collect, store, or convey
43 stormwater for drainage or flood control purposes.
- 44 (21) Targeted interest rate project. – Either of the following types of projects:
45 a. A high-unit-cost project that is awarded a loan.
46 b. A project that is awarded a loan from the CWSRF or the DWSRF
47 and is in a category for which federal law encourages a special focus.
- 48 (22) Treasurer. – The Treasurer of the State elected pursuant to Article III,
49 Section 7, of the Constitution.
- 50 (23) Wastewater collection system. – A unified system of pipes, conduits,
51 pumping stations, force mains, and appurtenances for collecting and

1 transmitting water-carried human wastes and other wastewater from
2 residences, industrial establishments, or any other buildings.

3 (24) Wastewater Reserve. – The Wastewater Reserve established in
4 G.S. 159G-22 as an account in the Water Infrastructure Fund.

5 (25) Wastewater system. – A wastewater collection system, wastewater treatment
6 works, stormwater quality project, or nonpoint source pollution project.

7 (26) Wastewater treatment works. – The various facilities and devices used in the
8 treatment of sewage, industrial waste, or other wastes of a liquid nature,
9 including the necessary interceptor sewers, outfall sewers, nutrient removal
10 equipment, pumping equipment, power and other equipment, and their
11 appurtenances.

12 (27) Water Infrastructure Fund. – The fund established in G.S. 159G-22."

13 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 159G-21 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 159G-21. Revenue for water projects.**

15 This Chapter governs the use of the following revenue:

16 (1) Revenue appropriated to the Department for the Authority to use to match
17 federal funds received for loans and grants for wastewater and drinking
18 water projects and revenue received by the ~~Department~~ Authority from the
19 repayment of loans made with the use of the federal funds.

20 (2) Revenue appropriated to the Department for the Authority to use to provide
21 a source of State funds to make loans and grants for wastewater and drinking
22 water projects and revenue received by the ~~Department~~ Authority from the
23 repayment of loans made with the use of these funds."

24 **SECTION 9.** G.S. 159G-22 reads as rewritten:

25 **"§ 159G-22. Water Infrastructure Fund.**

26 (a) Fund Established. – The Water Infrastructure Fund is established as a special
27 revenue fund. The Fund is comprised of the accounts set out in this section. The Fund provides
28 revenue through its accounts for loans and grants as provided in this Chapter to meet the water
29 infrastructure needs of the State. The Treasurer is responsible for distributing and investing all
30 revenue received by the Fund. Interest and other investment income earned by the Fund accrues
31 to it and must be allocated to the account to which the income is attributable. Accounts to
32 which federal funds are credited must be kept separate from accounts that do not receive federal
33 funds. A payment of the principal of or interest on a loan made from an account of the Fund
34 must be credited to the account from which the loan was made.

35 (b) CWSRF. – The Clean Water State Revolving Fund is established as an account
36 within the Water Infrastructure Fund. The account receives federal funds for wastewater
37 projects and the State funds required to match the federal funds. The account is established
38 under and must be managed in accordance with Title VI of the Federal Water Quality Act of
39 1987, Pub. L. 100-4, to achieve the purposes of that act and the Federal Water Pollution
40 Control Act of 1972, 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 through 1387. The account must comply with these
41 federal acts and the federal regulations adopted to implement the acts. Revenue credited to the
42 account is available in perpetuity and must be used only to provide construction loans and other
43 assistance allowed under federal law. Grants are available from this account only to the extent
44 allowed under federal law.

45 (c) DWSRF. – The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is established as an account
46 within the Water Infrastructure Fund. The account receives federal funds for public water
47 systems and the State funds required to match the federal funds. The account is established
48 under and must be managed in accordance with section 130 of Title 1 of the federal Safe
49 Drinking Water Act of 1996 as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 300J-12, to achieve the purposes of that
50 act. The account must comply with that act and the federal regulations adopted to implement
51 the act. Revenue credited to the account is available in perpetuity and must be used only to

1 provide construction loans and other assistance allowed under federal law. Grants are available
2 from this account only to the extent allowed under federal law.

3 (d) Wastewater Reserve. – The Wastewater Reserve is established as an account within
4 the Water Infrastructure Fund. The account is established to receive State funds that are to be
5 used for loans and grants for wastewater systems. Revenue credited to the Reserve is neither
6 received from the federal government nor provided as a match for federal funds.

7 (e) Wastewater Accounts. – ~~The Department Authority~~ is directed to establish accounts
8 within the Wastewater Reserve to administer loans and grants for wastewater collection
9 systems, wastewater treatment works, stormwater quality projects, and nonpoint source
10 pollution projects. The wastewater accounts must include an account for each type of loan or
11 grant set out in G.S. 159G-33.

12 (f) Drinking Water Reserve. – The Drinking Water Reserve is established as an account
13 within the Water Infrastructure Fund. The account is established to receive State funds that are
14 to be used for loans and grants for public water systems. Revenue credited to the Reserve is
15 neither received from the federal government nor provided as a match for federal funds.

16 (g) Drinking Water Accounts. – ~~The Department Authority~~ is directed to establish
17 accounts within the Drinking Water Reserve to administer loans and grants for public water
18 systems. The drinking water accounts must include an account for each type of loan or grant set
19 out in G.S. 159G-34."

20 **SECTION 10.** G.S. 159G-23 reads as rewritten:

21 "**§ 159G-23. Common criteria for loan or grant from Wastewater Reserve or Drinking**
22 **Water Reserve.**

23 The criteria in this section apply to a loan or grant from the Wastewater Reserve or the
24 Drinking Water Reserve. ~~The Division of Water Quality and the Division of Water Resources~~
25 ~~must each~~ The Authority shall establish a system of assigning points to applications based on
26 the following criteria:

- 27 (1) Public necessity. – An applicant must explain how the project promotes
28 public health and protects the environment. A project that improves a system
29 that is not in compliance with permit requirements or is under orders from
30 the Department, enables a moratorium to be lifted, or replaces failing septic
31 tanks with a wastewater collection system has priority.
- 32 (2) Effect on impaired waters. – A project that improves designated impaired
33 waters of the State has priority.
- 34 (3) Efficiency. – A project that achieves efficiencies in meeting the State's water
35 infrastructure needs or reduces vulnerability to drought consistent with Part
36 2A of Article 21 and Article 38 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes by
37 one of the following methods has priority:
- 38 a. The combination of two or more wastewater or public water systems
39 into a regional wastewater or public water system by merger,
40 consolidation, or another means.
 - 41 b. Conservation or reuse of water, including bulk water reuse facilities
42 and waterlines to supply reuse water for irrigation and other
43 approved uses.
 - 44 c. Construction of an interconnection between water systems intended
45 for use in drought or other water shortage emergency.
 - 46 d. Repair or replacement of leaking waterlines to improve water
47 conservation and efficiency or to prevent contamination.
 - 48 e. Replacement of meters and installation of new metering systems.
- 49 (4) Comprehensive land-use plan. – A project that is located in a city or county
50 that has adopted or has taken significant steps to adopt a comprehensive
51 land-use plan under Article 18 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes or

1 Article 19 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes has priority over a
2 project located in a city or county that has not adopted a plan or has not
3 taken steps to do so. The existence of a plan has more priority than steps
4 taken to adopt a plan, such as adoption of a zoning ordinance. A plan that
5 exceeds the minimum State standards for protection of water resources has
6 more priority than one that does not. A project is considered to be located in
7 a city or county if it is located in whole or in part in that unit. A land-use
8 plan is not considered a comprehensive land-use plan unless it has
9 provisions that protect existing water uses and ensure compliance with water
10 quality standards and classifications in all waters of the State affected by the
11 plan.

12 (5) Flood hazard ordinance. – A project that is located in a city or county that
13 has adopted a flood hazard prevention ordinance under G.S. 143-215.54A
14 has priority over a project located in a city or county that has not adopted an
15 ordinance. A plan that exceeds the minimum standards under
16 G.S. 143-215.54A for a flood hazard prevention ordinance has more priority
17 than one that does not. A project is considered to be located in a city or
18 county if it is located in whole or in part in that unit. If no part of the service
19 area of a project is located within the 100-year floodplain, the project has the
20 same priority under this subdivision as if it were located in a city or county
21 that has adopted a flood hazard prevention ordinance. The most recent maps
22 prepared pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Program or approved by
23 the Department determine whether an area is within the 100-year floodplain.

24 (6) Sound management. – A project submitted by a local government unit that
25 has demonstrated a willingness and ability to meet its responsibilities
26 through sound fiscal policies and efficient operation and management has
27 priority.

28 (6a) Asset management plan. – A project submitted by a local government unit
29 with more than 1,000 service connections that has developed and is
30 implementing an asset management plan has priority over a project
31 submitted by a local government unit with more than 1,000 service
32 connections that has not developed or is not implementing an asset
33 management plan.

34 (7) Capital improvement plan. – A project that implements the applicant's
35 capital improvement plan for the wastewater system or public water system
36 it manages has priority over a project that does not implement a capital
37 improvement plan. To receive priority, a capital improvement plan must set
38 out the applicant's expected water infrastructure needs for at least 10 years.

39 (8) Coastal habitat protection. – A project that implements a recommendation of
40 a Coastal Habitat Protection Plan adopted by the Environmental
41 Management Commission, the Coastal Resources Commission, and the
42 Marine Fisheries Commission pursuant to G.S. 143B-279.8 has priority over
43 other projects that affect counties subject to that Plan.

44 (9) High-unit-cost threshold. – A high-unit-cost project has priority over
45 projects that are not high-unit-cost projects. The priority given to a
46 high-unit-cost project shall be set using a sliding scale based on the amount
47 by which the applicant exceeds the high-unit-cost threshold.

48 (10) Regionalization. – A project to provide for the planning of regional public
49 water and wastewater systems, to provide for the orderly coordination of
50 local actions relating to public water and wastewater systems, or to help
51 realize economies of scale in regional public water and wastewater systems

1 through consolidation, management, merger, or interconnection of public
2 water and wastewater systems has priority. If an applicant demonstrates that
3 it is not feasible for the project to include regionalization, the funding
4 agency shall assign the project the same priority as a project that includes
5 regionalization.

6 (11) State water supply plan. – A project that addresses a potential conflict
7 between local plans or implements a measure in which local water supply
8 plans could be better coordinated, as identified in the State water supply plan
9 pursuant to G.S. 143-355(m), has priority.

10 (12) Water conservation measures for drought. – A project that includes adoption
11 of water conservation measures by a local government unit that are more
12 stringent than the minimum water conservation measures required pursuant
13 to G.S. 143-355.2 has priority.

14 (13) Low-income residents. – A project that is located in an area annexed by a
15 municipality under Article 4A of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes in
16 order to provide water or sewer services to low-income residents has
17 priority. For purposes of this section, low-income residents are those with a
18 family income that is eighty percent (80%) or less of median family
19 income."

20 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 159G-24(b) reads as rewritten:

21 "(b) Departmental Receipt. – The fee on a loan from the Water Infrastructure Fund is a
22 departmental receipt and must be applied to the ~~Department's~~Authority's and the Local
23 Government Commission's costs in administering loans from these Reserves. The ~~Department~~
24 Authority and the Local Government Commission must determine how to allocate the fee
25 receipts between their agencies. The fee on a grant from the Water Infrastructure Fund is a
26 departmental receipt of the ~~Department~~Authority and must be applied to the ~~Department's~~
27 Authority's costs in administering grants from these Reserves."

28 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 159G-25 reads as rewritten:

29 "**§ 159G-25. Expenditure for emergency corrective action at a wastewater treatment**
30 **works.**

31 (a) The ~~Department~~Authority may use revenue in any account of the Wastewater
32 Reserve to provide funds for emergency corrective action at a wastewater treatment works
33 under the circumstances set out in this section. The amount expended in a fiscal year for
34 corrective action under this section may not exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000).
35 An expenditure for emergency corrective action is authorized only under the following
36 circumstances:

37 (1) A person holding a wastewater discharge or nondischarge permit issued
38 under Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is violating the terms
39 of the permit.

40 (2) The wastewater treatment works operated under the permit has a design flow
41 capacity of no more than 100,000 gallons a day.

42 (3) The ~~Department~~Authority has given the permit holder written notice of the
43 violation.

44 (4) The permit holder refuses to take the action required to comply with the
45 permit.

46 (5) The inaction by the permit holder poses a threat to public health.

47 (6) The ~~Department~~Authority has informed the permit holder in writing that the
48 ~~Department~~Authority plans to take emergency corrective action and then
49 bring a civil action against the permit holder to recover the cost of the
50 emergency corrective action.

1 (b) The ~~Department Authority~~ may bring a civil action against the holder of the permit
2 for the wastewater treatment works to recover the amount expended from the Wastewater
3 Reserve for the emergency corrective action. The amount recovered in a civil action must be
4 credited to the account in the Wastewater Reserve from which the funds were expended."

5 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 159G-26(a) reads as rewritten:

6 "(a) Requirement. – The ~~Department Authority~~ must publish a report each year on the
7 accounts in the Water Infrastructure Fund that are administered by the ~~Division of Water~~
8 ~~Quality or the Division of Water Resources Authority.~~ The report must be published by 1
9 November of each year and cover the preceding fiscal year. The ~~Department Authority~~ must
10 make the report available to the public and must give a copy of the report to the Environmental
11 Review Commission and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly."

12 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 159G-30 reads as rewritten:

13 "**§ 159G-30. Department's Authority's responsibility.**

14 The ~~Department Authority~~, through the Division of Water Quality and the Division of
15 Water Resources, administers loans and grants made from the CWSRF, the DWSRF, the
16 Wastewater Reserve, and the Drinking Water Reserve. ~~The Division of Water Quality~~
17 ~~administers loans and grants from the CWSRF and the Wastewater Reserve. The Division of~~
18 ~~Water Resources administers loans and grants from the DWSRF and the Drinking Water~~
19 ~~Reserve."~~

20 **SECTION 15.** G.S. 159G-32 reads as rewritten:

21 "**§ 159G-32. Projects eligible for loan or grant.**

22 (a) CWSRF and DWSRF. – Federal law determines whether a project is eligible for a
23 loan or grant from the CWSRF and the DWSRF. A project must meet the eligibility
24 requirements set under federal law.

25 (b) Wastewater Reserve. – The ~~Department Authority~~ is authorized to make loans and
26 grants from the Wastewater Reserve for the following types of projects:

- 27 (1) Wastewater collection system.
- 28 (2) Wastewater treatment works.
- 29 (3) Stormwater quality project.
- 30 (4) Nonpoint source pollution project.

31 (c) Drinking Water Reserve. – The ~~Department Authority~~ is authorized to make loans
32 and grants from the Drinking Water Reserve for public water system projects."

33 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 159G-33 reads as rewritten:

34 "**§ 159G-33. Loans and grants available from Wastewater Reserve.**

35 (a) Types. – The ~~Department Authority~~ is authorized to make the types of loans and
36 grants listed in this subsection from the Wastewater Reserve. Each type of loan or grant must
37 be administered through a separate account within the Wastewater Reserve.

- 38 (1) General. – A loan or grant is available for a project authorized in
39 G.S. 159G-32(b).
- 40 (2) High-unit-cost grant. – A high-unit-cost grant is available for the portion of
41 the construction costs of a wastewater collection system project or a
42 wastewater treatment works project that results in an estimated average
43 household user fee for water and sewer service in the area served by the
44 project that exceeds the high-unit-cost threshold.
- 45 (3) Technical assistance grant. – A technical assistance grant is available to
46 determine the best way to correct the deficiencies in a wastewater collection
47 system or wastewater treatment works that either is not in compliance with
48 its permit limits or, as identified in the most recent inspection report by the
49 ~~Department Authority~~ under G.S. 143-215.3, is experiencing operational
50 problems and is at risk of violating its permit limits.

1 (4) Emergency loan. – An emergency loan is available in the event the Secretary
2 certifies that a serious public health hazard related to the inadequacy of an
3 existing wastewater collection system or wastewater treatment works is
4 present or imminent in a community.

5 (b) Interaccount Transfer. – The ~~Secretary~~ chair of the Authority may use revenue in
6 any account in the Wastewater Reserve to provide funds for an emergency loan."

7 **SECTION 17.** G.S. 159G-34 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 159G-34. Loans and grants available from Drinking Water Reserve.**

9 (a) Types. – The ~~Department~~ Authority is authorized to make the types of loans and
10 grants listed in this section from the Drinking Water Reserve. Each type of loan or grant must
11 be administered through a separate account within the Drinking Water Reserve.

12 (1) General. – A loan or grant is available for a project for a public water
13 system.

14 (2) High-unit-cost grant. – A grant is available for the portion of the
15 construction costs of a public water system project that results in an
16 estimated average household user fee for water and sewer service in the area
17 served by the project that exceeds the high-unit-cost threshold.

18 (3) Technical assistance grant. – A technical assistance grant is available to
19 determine the best way to correct the deficiencies in a public water system
20 that does not comply with State law or the rules adopted to implement that
21 law.

22 (4) Emergency loan. – An emergency loan is available to an applicant in the
23 event the Secretary certifies that either a serious public health hazard or a
24 drought emergency related to the water supply system is present or imminent
25 in a community.

26 (b) Interaccount Transfer. – The ~~Secretary~~ chair of the Authority may use revenue in
27 any account in the Drinking Water Reserve to provide funds for an emergency loan."

28 **SECTION 18.** G.S. 159G-35 reads as rewritten:

29 **"§ 159G-35. Criteria for loans and grants.**

30 (a) CWSRF and DWSRF. – Federal law determines the criteria for awarding a loan or
31 grant from the CWSRF or the DWSRF. An award of a loan or grant from one of these accounts
32 must meet the criteria set under federal law. The ~~Department~~ Authority is directed to establish
33 through negotiation with the United States Environmental Protection Agency the criteria for
34 evaluating applications for loans and grants from the CWSRF and the DWSRF and the priority
35 assigned to the criteria. The ~~Department~~ Authority must incorporate the negotiated criteria and
36 priorities in the Capitalization Grant Operating Agreement between the ~~Department~~ Authority
37 and the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The criteria and priorities
38 incorporated in the Agreement apply to a loan or grant from the CWSRF or the DWSRF. The
39 common criteria in G.S. 159G-23 do not apply to a loan or grant from the CWSRF or the
40 DWSRF.

41 (b) Reserves. – The common criteria in G.S. 159G-23 apply to a loan or grant from the
42 Wastewater Reserve or the Drinking Water Reserve. The ~~Department~~ Authority may establish
43 by rule other criteria that apply to a loan or grant from the Wastewater Reserve or the Drinking
44 Water Reserve."

45 **SECTION 19.** G.S. 159G-37 reads as rewritten:

46 **"§ 159G-37. Application to CWSRF, Wastewater Reserve, DWSRF, and Drinking Water
47 Reserve.**

48 An application for a loan or grant from the CWSRF or the Wastewater Reserve must be
49 filed with the ~~Division of Water Quality of the Department~~ Authority. An application for a loan
50 or grant from the DWSRF or the Drinking Water Reserve must be filed with the ~~Division of
51 Water Resources of the Department~~ Authority. An application must be submitted on a form

1 prescribed by the ~~Division Authority~~ and must contain the information required by the
2 ~~Division Authority~~. An applicant must submit to the ~~Division Authority~~ any additional
3 information requested by the ~~Division Authority~~ to enable the ~~Division Authority~~ to make a
4 determination on the application. An application that does not contain information required on
5 the application or requested by the ~~Division Authority~~ is incomplete and is not eligible for
6 consideration. An applicant may submit an application in as many categories as it is eligible for
7 consideration under this Article."

8 **SECTION 20.** G.S. 159G-38 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 159G-38. Environmental assessment and public hearing.**

10 (a) Required Information. – An application submitted under this Article for a loan or
11 grant for a project must state whether the project requires an environmental assessment. If the
12 application indicates that an environmental assessment is not required, it must identify the
13 exclusion in the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act, Article 1 of Chapter 113A of the
14 General Statutes, that applies to the project. If the application does not identify an exclusion in
15 the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act, it must include an environmental assessment of
16 the project's probable impacts on the environment.

17 (b) ~~Division Authority~~ Review. – If, after reviewing an application, the ~~Division of~~
18 ~~Water Quality or the Division of Water Resources, as appropriate, Authority~~ determines that a
19 project requires an environmental assessment, the assessment must be submitted before the
20 ~~Division Authority~~ continues its review of the application. If, after reviewing an environmental
21 assessment, the ~~Division Authority~~ concludes that an environmental impact statement is
22 required, the ~~Division Authority~~ may not continue its review of the application until a final
23 environmental impact statement has been completed and approved as provided in the North
24 Carolina Environmental Policy Act.

25 (c) Hearing. – The ~~Division of Water Quality or the Division of Water Resources, as~~
26 ~~appropriate, Authority~~ may hold a public hearing on an application for a loan or grant under this
27 Article if it determines that holding a hearing will serve the public interest. An individual who
28 is a resident of any county in which a proposed project is located may submit a written request
29 for a public hearing. The request must set forth each objection to the proposed project or other
30 reason for requesting a hearing and must include the name and address of the individual
31 making the request. The ~~Division Authority~~ may consider all written objections to the proposed
32 project, any statement submitted with the hearing request, and any significant adverse effects
33 the proposed project may have on the environment. The ~~Division's Authority's~~ decision on
34 whether to hold a hearing is conclusive. The ~~Division Authority~~ must keep all written requests
35 for a hearing on an application as part of the records pertaining to the application."

36 **SECTION 21.** G.S. 159G-39 reads as rewritten:

37 **"§ 159G-39. Review of applications and award of loan or grant.**

38 (a) Point Assignment. – The ~~Division of Water Quality or the Division of Water~~
39 ~~Resources, as appropriate, Authority~~ must review all applications filed for a loan or grant under
40 this Article for an application period. The ~~Division Authority~~ must rank each application in
41 accordance with the points assigned to the evaluation criteria. The ~~Division Authority~~ must
42 make a written determination of an application's rank and attach the determination to the
43 application. The ~~Division's Authority's~~ determination of rank is conclusive.

44 (b) Initial Consideration. – The ~~Division Authority~~ may consider an application for an
45 emergency loan from the Wastewater Reserve or the Drinking Water Reserve at any time. The
46 ~~Division Authority~~ must consider all other loan applications and all grant applications filed
47 during an application period at the same time in order to rank the applications.

48 (c) Reconsideration. – When an application's rank is too low to receive an award of a
49 loan or grant for an application period, the ~~Division Authority~~ must include the application with
50 those considered for the next application period. If the application's rank is again too low to
51 receive an award, the application is not eligible for consideration in a subsequent application

1 period. An applicant whose application does not receive an award after review in two
2 application periods may file a new application.

3 (d) Notification of Decision. – When the ~~Division~~Authority determines that an
4 application's rank makes it eligible for an award of a loan or grant, the ~~Division~~Authority must
5 send the applicant a letter of intent to award the loan or grant. The notice must set out any
6 conditions the applicant must meet to receive an award of a loan or grant. When the applicant
7 satisfies the conditions set out in the letter of intent, the ~~Division~~Authority must send the
8 applicant an offer to award a loan or grant. The applicant must give the ~~Division~~Authority
9 written notice of whether it accepts or rejects the offer. A loan or grant is considered awarded
10 when an offer to award the loan or grant is issued."

11 **SECTION 22.** G.S. 159G-40 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 159G-40. Terms of loan and execution of loan documents.**

13 (a) Approval by Local Government Commission. – The ~~Department~~Authority may not
14 award a loan under this Article unless the Local Government Commission approves the award
15 of the loan and the terms of the loan. The terms of a loan awarded from the CWSRF and the
16 DWSRF must be consistent with federal law. In reviewing a proposed loan to a local
17 government unit, the Local Government Commission must consider the loan as if it were a
18 bond proposal and review the proposed loan in accordance with the factors set out in
19 G.S. 159-52 for review of a proposed bond issue. The Local Government Commission must
20 review a proposed loan to a nonprofit water corporation and to an investor-owned drinking
21 water corporation in accordance with the factors set out in G.S. 159-153.

22 (b) Interest Rate and Maturity. – The interest rate payable on and the maximum
23 maturity of a loan are subject to the following limitations:

24 (1) Interest rate. – The interest rate for a loan may not exceed the lesser of four
25 percent (4%) or one half the prevailing national market rate for tax-exempt
26 general obligation debt of similar maturities derived from a published
27 indicator. When recommended by the ~~Department~~Authority, the Local
28 Government Commission may set an interest rate for a loan for a targeted
29 interest rate project at a rate that is lower than the standard rate to achieve
30 the purpose of the target.

31 (2) Maturity. – The maximum maturity for a loan for a project that is not a
32 high-unit-cost project may not exceed 20 years or the project's expected life,
33 whichever is shorter. The maximum maturity for a loan for a high-unit-cost
34 project is 30 years or the project's expected life, whichever is shorter.

35 (c) Security for Loan. – A local government unit may pledge any of the following,
36 alone or in combination, as security for an obligation to repay the principal of and interest on a
37 loan awarded under this Article:

38 (1) User fee revenues derived from operation of the wastewater system or public
39 water system that benefits from the project for which the loan is awarded.

40 (2) A mortgage, deed of trust, security interest, or similar lien on part or all of
41 the real and personal property comprising the wastewater system or public
42 water system that benefits from the project for which the loan is awarded.

43 (3) Its full faith and credit if it meets the requirements of Article 4 of Chapter
44 159 of the General Statutes.

45 (4) Nontax revenue not included in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

46 (d) Debt Instrument. – A local government unit, a nonprofit water corporation, and an
47 investor-owned drinking water corporation may execute a debt instrument payable to the State
48 to evidence an obligation to repay the principal of and interest on a loan awarded under this
49 Article. The Treasurer, with the assistance of the Local Government Commission, must
50 develop debt instruments for use by local government units, nonprofit water corporations, and
51 investor-owned drinking water corporations under this section. The Local Government

1 Commission must develop procedures for loan recipients to deliver debt instruments to the
2 State without public bidding."

3 **SECTION 23.** G.S. 159G-41 reads as rewritten:

4 **"§ 159G-41. Withdrawal of loan or grant.**

5 A letter of intent to offer an award for a loan or grant for a project is withdrawn if the
6 applicant fails to enter into a construction contract for the project within two years after the date
7 of the letter, unless the ~~Department Authority~~ finds that the applicant has good cause for the
8 failure. An award for a loan or grant for a project is withdrawn if the applicant fails to enter into
9 a construction contract for the project within one year after the date of the award, unless the
10 ~~Department Authority~~ finds that the applicant has good cause for the failure. If the ~~Department~~
11 ~~Authority~~ finds good cause for an applicant's failure, the ~~Department Authority~~ must set a date
12 by which the applicant must take action or forfeit the loan or grant."

13 **SECTION 24.** G.S. 159G-42 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 159G-42. Disbursement of loan or grant.**

15 The ~~Department Authority~~ must disburse the proceeds of a loan or grant to a recipient in a
16 series of payments based on the progress of the project for which the loan or grant was
17 awarded. To obtain a payment, a loan or grant recipient must submit a request for payment to
18 the ~~Department Authority~~ and document the expenditures for which the payment is requested."

19 **SECTION 25.** G.S. 159G-43 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 159G-43. Inspection of project.**

21 (a) Authority. – The ~~Department Authority~~ may inspect a project for which it awards a
22 loan or grant under this Article to determine the progress made on the project and whether the
23 construction of the project is consistent with the project described in the loan or grant
24 application. The inspection may be performed by personnel of the ~~Department Authority~~ or by
25 a professional engineer licensed under Chapter 89C of the General Statutes.

26 (b) Disqualification. – An individual may not perform an inspection of a project under
27 this section if the individual meets any of the following criteria:

28 (1) Is an officer or employee of the local government unit, nonprofit water
29 corporation, or investor-owned drinking water corporation that received the
30 loan or grant award for the project.

31 (2) Is an owner, officer, employee, or agent of a contractor or subcontractor
32 engaged in the construction of the project for which the loan or grant was
33 made."

34 **SECTION 26.** G.S. 159G-44 reads as rewritten:

35 **"§ 159G-44. Rules.**

36 The ~~Department Authority~~ may adopt rules to implement this Chapter. Chapter 150B of the
37 General Statutes, the Administrative Procedure Act, governs the adoption of rules by the
38 ~~Department Authority~~. A rule adopted to administer a loan or grant from the CWSRF or the
39 DWSRF must be consistent with federal law. The ~~Department Authority~~ must give a copy of
40 the rules adopted to implement this Article without charge to a person who requests a copy."

41 **SECTION 27.** Article 4 of Chapter 159G of the General Statutes is repealed.

42 **SECTION 28.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2014.