

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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HOUSE BILL 491*
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/2/95

Short Title: Reclassify Certain Watersheds.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 16, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REEXAMINATION BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL
2 MANAGEMENT COMMISSION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN
3 WATER SUPPLY WATERSHEDS THAT MEET THE STANDARDS OF MORE
4 THAN ONE CLASSIFICATION AND TO RECLASSIFY THOSE WATERSHEDS
5 ACCORDINGLY.
6

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 Section 1. Certain water supply watersheds meet the standards of more than
9 one classification under the water supply watershed protection program. Therefore, the
10 Environmental Management Commission shall reexamine, under current rules adopted by
11 the Environmental Management Commission pursuant to G.S. 143-214.5, the
12 classification of any water supply watershed that was classified as a WS-III water supply
13 watershed on 1 March 1995, and that: (i) affects a land area of approximately 70,956
14 acres; (ii) includes within the watershed the headwaters of a river that ultimately
15 converges with other rivers to form a major river that flows west into another state; and
16 (iii) is located within two adjacent counties that have a combined area of 467 square
17 miles, have a combined population of approximately 29,367, share western borders with
18 another state, have a national park running through the counties, are both located in the
19 same two-member State House of Representatives district and the same two-member

1 State Senate district, and one of the adjacent counties has a point of elevation of at least
2 3,589 feet above sea level.

3 Sec. 2. Due to the definitions of certain water supply watershed classes, the
4 reclassification of a water supply watershed to a less restrictive class will change the land
5 area affected by the classification. Reclassification of any watershed that meets the
6 criteria set out in Section 1 of this act shall reduce the land area affected from
7 approximately 70,956 acres to approximately 35,490 acres.

8 Sec. 3. Any water supply watershed that meets the criteria set out in Section 1
9 of this act and is reclassified by the Environmental Management Commission as a WS-IV
10 water supply watershed, shall not thereafter be reclassified to a more restrictive
11 classification.

12 Sec. 4. If the Environmental Management Commission fails to reexamine the
13 classification of any water supply watershed that meets the criteria of Section 1 of this act
14 and to reclassify that water supply watershed as a WS-IV water supply watershed by 1
15 October 1995, then, the watershed shall automatically be reclassified as a WS-IV water
16 supply watershed on that date.

17 Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.