

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**SESSION 1997**

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**HOUSE BILL 1479\***

Short Title: Study Lagoon Phase Out Implementation.

(Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Watson; and McComas.

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Referred to: Rules, Calendar and Operations of the House.

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May 25, 1998

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED**

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2 **AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL**  
3 **RESOURCES TO STUDY ISSUES RELATED TO THE PHASEOUT OF**  
4 **ANAEROBIC LAGOONS AND SPRAYFIELDS AS THE PRIMARY METHODS**  
5 **OF DISPOSING OF ANIMAL WASTE AT SWINE FARMS, AS**  
6 **RECOMMENDED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION.**

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8       Section 1. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall  
9 coordinate a joint study by the Division of Water Quality and the Division of Soil and  
10 Water Conservation of issues related to the implementation of the proposed plan to phase  
11 out the use of anaerobic lagoons and sprayfields as the primary methods of disposing of  
12 animal waste at swine farms developed by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer  
13 Services pursuant to S.L. 1997-458, Section 12.4(c). In conducting this study, the  
14 Department shall consult with the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the  
15 Cooperative Extension Service of North Carolina State University, the Animal and  
16 Poultry Waste Management Center of North Carolina State University, other appropriate  
17 governmental agencies, agricultural interest groups, and environmental protection and  
18 natural resources conservation advocacy groups. In conducting this study, the  
19 Department shall (i) develop recommendations for implementing the phaseout of  
20 anaerobic lagoons and sprayfields as the primary methods of disposing of swine waste,

1 (ii) identify recommended environmental and public health performance-based criteria  
2 and standards for alternative animal waste management technologies, (iii) recommend a  
3 process to identify the best available technologies to meet these performance-based  
4 criteria and standards, (iv) recommend a process and timetable for the phaseout of  
5 existing lagoons and the replacement of those lagoons with alternative technologies, and  
6 (v) identify public and private funding alternatives to ensure that the phaseout is  
7 completed in a timely manner. The Department shall report its findings and  
8 recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the Environmental Review  
9 Commission no later than 1 October 1998.

10           Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.