

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 653*

Short Title: Add'l Measures for Emerging Contaminants. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Garrett (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 4, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH ENHANCED REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCHARGERS OF
3 POLLUTANTS TO THE STATE'S AIR AND WATER, TO PROVIDE INCREASED
4 FUNDING FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, AND TO
5 MAKE OTHER STATUTORY CHANGES NECESSARY TO ADDRESS
6 CONTAMINATION OF DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES IN THE STATE IN ORDER TO
7 PROTECT HUMAN HEALTH.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9
10 **RESTORE "EMISSIONS" TO THE DEFINITION OF "DISCHARGE" FOR PURPOSES**
11 **OF WATER QUALITY REGULATION**

12 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 143-213 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 143-213. Definitions.**

14 Unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms as used in this Article and Articles
15 21A and 21B of this Chapter are defined as follows:

16 ...

17 (9) Whenever reference is made in this Article to "discharge" or the "discharge of
18 waste," it shall be interpreted to include discharge, spillage, leakage, pumping,
19 placement, emptying, or dumping into waters of the State, or into any unified
20 sewer system or arrangement for sewage disposal, which system or
21 arrangement in turn discharges the waste into the waters of the State.—A
22 reference to "discharge" or the "discharge of waste" shall not be interpreted to
23 include "emission" as defined in subdivision (12) of this section.

24 ...

25 (12) The term "emission" means a release into the outdoor atmosphere of air
26 contaminants.

27"

28
29 **REPEAL HARDISON AMENDMENT**

30 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 150B-19.3 is repealed.

31 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 130A-309.207 reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 130A-309.207. General rule making for Part.**

33 The Environmental Management Commission shall adopt rules as necessary to implement
34 the provisions of the Part. ~~Such rules shall be exempt from the requirements of G.S. 150B-19.3."~~

35 **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 130A-309.226 reads as rewritten:

36 **"§ 130A-309.226. Amendments required to rules.**



1 Requirements under existing rules governing the use of coal combustion products for
2 structural fill that do not conflict with the provisions of this Subpart shall continue to apply to
3 such projects. The Environmental Management Commission shall amend existing rules
4 governing the use of coal combustion products for structural fill as necessary to implement the
5 provisions of this Subpart. ~~Such rules shall be exempt from the requirements of G.S. 150B-19.3."~~
6

7 **PROHIBIT THE DISCHARGE OF UNREGULATED TOXIC POLLUTANTS;**
8 **REQUIRE SUSPENSION OF PERMITS WHERE THE PERMITTEE HAS**
9 **DISCHARGED A POLLUTANT NOT AUTHORIZED UNDER THE PERMIT AND FOR**
10 **WHICH THE PERMITTEE HAD NOT DISCLOSED THE POLLUTANT IN ITS**
11 **PERMIT APPLICATION; AND REQUIRE AN APPLICANT FOR A NPDES PERMIT**
12 **OR RENEWAL TO DISCLOSE ALL POLLUTANTS IN ITS DISCHARGE**

13 SECTION 3. G.S. 143-215.1 reads as rewritten:

14 "§ 143-215.1. Control of sources of water pollution; permits required.

15 ...

16 (a8) No person shall cause or permit any toxic waste, directly or indirectly, to be
17 discharged to or in any manner intermixed with the waters of the State, for which the United
18 States Environmental Protection Agency or the State has not established a health advisory
19 standard, health goal, or effluent standard or limitation. If a toxic waste does have a health
20 advisory standard, health goal, or effluent standard or limitation, or is the subject of a consent
21 order entered into by the United States Environmental Protection Agency under the Toxic
22 Substance Control Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2601, et seq., as amended, a permittee must comply with
23 whichever health goal, health standard, or effluent standard or limitation is more stringent. This
24 provision shall not apply to municipal wastewater treatment facilities.

25 (b) Commission's Power as to Permits. –

26 ...

27 (6) The Commission shall suspend a permit immediately upon discovery that a
28 permittee has caused or permitted any pollutant, directly or indirectly, to be
29 discharged to or in any manner intermixed with the waters of the State, which
30 pollutant is not authorized by such permit, or disclosed in the application for
31 such permit. This provision shall not apply to municipal wastewater treatment
32 facilities.

33 ...

34 (l) The Department shall require that every person applying for an individual National
35 Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit fully disclose in its application for a
36 new permit, or for a permit renewal, each pollutant in the person's discharge that is at or above
37 the practical quantitation limit (PQL) for the pollutant, including emerging chemicals without
38 applicable discharge standards established under State or federal law. The pollutant's
39 concentration to be discharged shall be disclosed, as well as the chemical abstracts service (CAS)
40 number for each pollutant if available. If the CAS number is unavailable, the pollutant shall
41 otherwise be described in sufficient detail so as to adequately inform the Department of the
42 pollutant's characteristics."

43
44 **POLLUTERS TO PROVIDE FILTRATION AND TREATMENT FOR WATER**
45 **SUPPLIES CONTAMINATED AS A RESULT OF AN UNAUTHORIZED DISCHARGE**
46 **OF A POLLUTANT**

47 SECTION 4. G.S. 143-215.3(a) reads as rewritten:

48 "§ 143-215.3. General powers of Commission and Department; auxiliary powers.

49 (a) Additional Powers. – In addition to the specific powers prescribed elsewhere in this
50 Article, and for the purpose of carrying out its duties, the Commission shall have the power:

51 ...

1 (9) If an investigation conducted pursuant to this Article or Article 21B of this
2 Chapter reveals a violation of any rules, standards, or limitations adopted by
3 the Commission pursuant to this Article or Article 21B of this Chapter, or a
4 violation of any terms or conditions of any permit issued pursuant to
5 G.S. 143-215.1 or 143-215.108, or special order or other document issued
6 pursuant to G.S. 143-215.2 or G.S. 143-215.110, the Commission may assess
7 the reasonable costs of any investigation, inspection or monitoring survey
8 which revealed the violation against the person responsible therefor. If the
9 violation resulted in an unauthorized discharge to the waters or atmosphere of
10 the State, the Commission may also assess the person responsible for the
11 violation for any actual and necessary costs incurred by the State in removing,
12 correcting or abating any adverse effects upon the water or air resulting from
13 the unauthorized discharge. If the person responsible for the violation refuses
14 or fails within a reasonable time to pay any sums assessed, the Commission
15 may institute a civil action in the superior court of the county in which the
16 violation occurred or, in the Commission's discretion, in the superior court of
17 the county in which such person resides or has his or its principal place of
18 business, to recover such sums.

19 ...
20 (12) To declare an emergency when it finds that a generalized condition of water
21 or air pollution which is causing imminent danger to the health or safety of
22 the public. Regardless of any other provisions of law, if the Department finds
23 that such a condition of water or air pollution exists and that it creates an
24 emergency requiring immediate action to protect the public health and safety
25 or to protect fish and wildlife, the Secretary of the Department with the
26 concurrence of the Governor, shall order persons causing or contributing to
27 the water or air pollution in question to reduce or discontinue immediately the
28 emission of air contaminants or the discharge of wastes. Immediately after the
29 issuance of such order, the chairman of the Commission shall fix a place and
30 time for a hearing before the Commission to be held within 24 hours after
31 issuance of such order, and within 24 hours after the commencement of such
32 hearing, and without adjournment thereof, the Commission shall either affirm,
33 modify or set aside the order.

34 In the absence of a generalized condition of air or water pollution of the
35 type referred to above, if the Secretary finds that the emissions from one or
36 more air contaminant sources or the discharge of wastes from one or more
37 sources of water pollution is causing imminent danger to human health and
38 safety or to fish and wildlife, he may with the concurrence of the Governor
39 order the person or persons responsible for the operation or operations in
40 question to immediately reduce or discontinue the emissions of air
41 contaminants or the discharge of wastes or to take such other measures as are,
42 in his judgment, necessary, without regard to any other provisions of this
43 Article or Article 21B of this Chapter. In such event, the requirements for
44 hearing and affirmance, modification or setting aside of such orders set forth
45 in the preceding paragraph of this subdivision shall apply.

46 (12a) If the Secretary finds that a permittee has caused or permitted any pollutant,
47 directly or indirectly, to be discharged to or in any manner intermixed with
48 the waters of the State, which pollutant is not authorized by a permit, or which
49 pollutant was discharged in exceedance of standards or limitations included
50 in the permit, the Secretary shall order the permittee to provide and maintain
51 water filtration or treatment processes adequate to remove the pollutant for

1 each local government located downstream from the point of discharge whose
2 drinking water supplies would be impacted by the pollutant for as long as the
3 pollutant persists in the environment. Permittees that have caused or permitted
4 any pollutant, directly or indirectly, to be discharged to or in any manner
5 intermixed with the waters of the State, which pollutant is not authorized by a
6 permit, or which pollutant was discharged in exceedance of standards or
7 limitations included in the permit, shall be financially responsible for the
8 removal of the pollutant discharged from public or private drinking water
9 supplies impacted by the pollutant.

10 "

12 **FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

13 **SECTION 5.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
14 Environmental Quality the sum of six million fifty-five thousand five hundred fifty-two dollars
15 (\$6,055,552) in recurring funds, which shall be used for 37 full-time equivalent positions, to
16 include 15 environmental scientists, 10 engineers, four hydro-geologists, three business analysts,
17 two administrative staff, one chemist, one economist, and one statistician to address emerging
18 compounds.

19 **SECTION 5.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
20 Environmental Quality the sum of three hundred thirty-six thousand four hundred forty-one
21 dollars (\$336,441) in nonrecurring funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to be used to acquire a
22 mobile lab to help respond to hurricanes and algal blooms in order to expedite restoration of
23 impacted drinking water systems impacted by such conditions.

25 **EXEMPTION FROM STATUTORY PROVISION CONCERNING ORDER OF** 26 **APPROPRIATIONS BILLS**

27 **SECTION 6.** The provisions of G.S. 143C-5-2 do not apply to this act.

29 **SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

30 **SECTION 7.(a)** If any section or provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or
31 invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part other than
32 the part declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

33 **SECTION 7.(b)** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
34 law.