

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

H

2

HOUSE BILL 765  
Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute Adopted  
6/29/15

Short Title: Regulatory Reform Act of 2015.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 15, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FURTHER REGULATORY RELIEF TO THE CITIZENS OF  
NORTH CAROLINA BY PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE  
REFORMS, BY ELIMINATING CERTAIN UNNECESSARY OR OUTDATED  
STATUTES AND REGULATIONS AND MODERNIZING OR SIMPLIFYING  
CUMBERSOME OR OUTDATED REGULATIONS, AND BY MAKING VARIOUS  
OTHER STATUTORY CHANGES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**PART I. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS**

**REPEAL OBSOLETE STATUTES**

**SECTION 1.1.** The following statutes are repealed:

- (1) G.S. 14-197. Using profane or indecent language on public highways; counties exempt.
- (2) G.S. 14-401.8. Refusing to relinquish party telephone line in emergency; false statement of emergency.

**BURDEN OF PROOF IN CERTAIN CONTESTED CASES**

**SECTION 1.2.(a)** Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 150B-25.1. Burden of proof.**

(a) Except as otherwise provided by law or by this section, the petitioner in a contested case has the burden of proving the facts alleged in the petition by a preponderance of the evidence.

(b) In a contested case involving the imposition of civil fines or penalties by a State agency for violation of the law, the burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence that the person who was fined actually committed the act for which the fine or penalty was imposed rests with the State agency.

(c) The burden of showing by a preponderance of the evidence that a career State employee subject to Chapter 126 of the General Statutes was discharged, suspended, or demoted for just cause rests with the agency employer."

**SECTION 1.2.(b)** The Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee shall study whether there are other categories of contested cases in which the burden of proof should be placed with the agency.



\* H 7 6 5 - V - 2 \*

1           **SECTION 1.2.(c)** This section is effective when this act becomes law and applies  
2 to contested cases commenced on or after that date.

#### 3 4 **LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

5           **SECTION 1.3.(a)** G.S. 120-121 is amended by adding two new subsections to  
6 read:

7           "(e) The following applies in any case where the Speaker of the House of  
8 Representatives or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate is directed by law to make a  
9 recommendation for an appointment by the General Assembly, and the legislator is also  
10 directed to make the recommendation in consultation with or upon the recommendation of a  
11 third party:

12           (1) The recommendation or consultation is discretionary and is not binding upon  
13 the legislator.

14           (2) The third party must submit the recommendation or consultation at least 60  
15 days prior to the expiration of the term or within 10 business days from the  
16 occurrence of a vacancy.

17           (3) Failure by the third party to submit the recommendation or consultation to  
18 the legislator within the time periods required under this subsection shall be  
19 deemed a waiver by the third party of the opportunity.

20           (f) The following applies in any case where the Speaker of the House of  
21 Representatives or the President Pro Tempore of the Senate is directed by law to make a  
22 recommendation for an appointment by the General Assembly, and the legislator is also  
23 directed to make the recommendation from nominees provided by a third party:

24           (1) The third party must submit the nominees at least 60 days prior to the  
25 expiration of the term or within 10 business days from the occurrence of a  
26 vacancy.

27           (2) Failure by the third party to submit the nomination to the legislator within  
28 the time periods required under this subsection shall be deemed a waiver by  
29 the third party of the opportunity."

30           **SECTION 1.3.(b)** Article 16 of Chapter 120 of the General Statutes is amended by  
31 adding a new section to read:

#### 32 **"§ 120-124. Appointments made by legislators.**

33           (a) In any case where a legislator is called upon by law to appoint a member to a board  
34 or commission upon the recommendation of or in consultation with a third party, the  
35 recommendation or consultation is discretionary and is not binding upon the legislator. The  
36 third party must submit the recommendation or consultation at least 60 days prior to the  
37 expiration of the term or within 10 business days from the occurrence of a vacancy.

38           (b) In any case where a legislator is called upon by law to appoint a member to a board  
39 or commission from nominees provided by a third party, the third party must submit the  
40 nominees at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the term or within 10 business days from the  
41 occurrence of a vacancy. This subsection does not apply to nominations made under  
42 G.S. 120-99(a) or G.S. 120-100(b).

43           (c) Failure to submit the recommendation, consultation, or nomination within the time  
44 periods required under this section shall be deemed a waiver by the third party of the  
45 opportunity."

46           **SECTION 1.3.(c)** This section is effective when this act becomes law and applies  
47 to recommendations, consultations, and nominations made on or after that date.

#### 48 49 **ALLOW ATTORNEYS' FEES WHEN THE STATE IS THE PREVAILING PARTY IN** 50 **CERTAIN CIVIL ACTIONS AND CLARIFY AND STANDARDIZE THE**

1 **REQUIREMENTS TO AWARD ATTORNEYS' FEES IN ACTIONS INVOLVING THE**  
2 **STATE**

3 **SECTION 1.4.(a)** G.S. 6-19.1 reads as rewritten:

4 **"§ 6-19.1. Attorney's fees to parties appealing or defending against agency decision in**  
5 **certain actions involving the State.**

6 (a) Prevailing Party Is Not the State. – In any civil action, other than an adjudication for  
7 the purpose of establishing or fixing a rate, or a disciplinary action by a licensing board,  
8 brought by the State or brought by a party who is contesting State action pursuant to  
9 G.S. 150B-43 or any other appropriate provisions of law, unless the prevailing party is the  
10 State, the court may, in its discretion, allow the prevailing party to recover reasonable attorney's  
11 fees, including attorney's fees applicable to the administrative review portion of the case, in  
12 contested cases arising under Article 3 of Chapter 150B, to be taxed as court costs against the  
13 appropriate agency of the State if:

- 14 (1) The court finds that the agency acted without substantial justification in  
15 pressing its claim against the party; and  
16 (2) The court finds that there are no special circumstances that would make the  
17 award of attorney's fees unjust. ~~The party shall petition for the attorney's fees~~  
18 ~~within 30 days following final disposition of the case. The petition shall be~~  
19 ~~supported by an affidavit setting forth the basis for the request.~~

20 Nothing in this ~~section-subsection~~ shall be deemed to authorize the assessment of attorney's  
21 fees for the administrative review portion of the case in contested cases arising under Article 9  
22 of Chapter 131E of the General Statutes.

23 ~~Nothing in this section grants permission to bring an action against an agency otherwise~~  
24 ~~immune from suit or gives a right to bring an action to a party who otherwise lacks standing to~~  
25 ~~bring the action.~~

26 Any attorney's fees assessed against an agency of the State under this ~~section-subsection~~  
27 shall be charged against the operating expenses of the agency and shall not be reimbursed from  
28 any other source.

29 (b) Expired.

30 (c) Prevailing Party Is the State. – In any civil action or other proceeding, the court  
31 must allow the State to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs if the State is the prevailing  
32 party and the claim or issue involves one or both of the following:

- 33 (1) Contesting the State's ability to construct transportation improvements.  
34 (2) Seeking relief based on environmental impact.

35 Reasonable attorneys' fees include attorneys' fees applicable to any administrative portion  
36 of the case. The attorneys' fees must be taxed as court costs against any law firm seeking relief  
37 against the State. Contracts between the law firm and named parties in the action to reimburse  
38 the law firm for attorneys' fees are valid and enforceable. Law firms may avoid liability under  
39 this subsection if the named parties post a bond for the payment of attorneys' fees and costs in  
40 an amount determined by the presiding judge. Upon motion of either party, the presiding judge  
41 may adjust the amount of the required bond at reasonable times.

42 (d) Petition and Award. – The prevailing party must petition for the attorneys' fees  
43 within 30 days following final disposition of the case. The petition must be supported by an  
44 affidavit setting forth the basis for the request. When the presiding judge determines that an  
45 award of attorneys' fees is to be made under this section, the judge must issue a written order  
46 including the factual basis and amount of attorneys' fees to be awarded.

47 (e) No Grant of Jurisdiction. – Nothing in this section grants permission to bring an  
48 action against the State when otherwise immune from suit or gives a right to bring an action to  
49 a party who otherwise lacks standing to bring the action.

50 (f) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

1           (1) Law firm. – Any entity or individual providing legal services in the action  
2                 against the State.

3           (2) State. – The State and its agencies as defined in G.S. 150B-2(1a)."

4           **SECTION 1.4.(b)** This section becomes effective September 1, 2015, and applies  
5 to all actions or other proceedings filed on and after that date.

## 6 7 **OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARD INVESTIGATORS AND INSPECTORS**

8           **SECTION 1.5.** Chapter 93B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
9 section to read:

### 10 **"§ 93B-8.2. Prohibit licensees from serving as investigators.**

11           No occupational licensing board shall contract with or employ a person licensed by the  
12 board to serve as an investigator or inspector if the licensee is actively practicing in the  
13 profession or occupation over which the board has jurisdiction. Nothing in this section shall  
14 prevent a board from employing licensees who are not otherwise employed in the same  
15 profession or occupation or for other purposes."

## 16 17 **NO FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED FOR LESS STRINGENT RULES**

18           **SECTION 1.6.(a)** G.S. 150B-21.3A(d) reads as rewritten:

19           "(d) Timetable. – The Commission shall establish a schedule for the review and  
20 readoption of existing rules in accordance with this section on a decennial basis as follows:

21           ...

22           (2) With regard to the readoption of rules as required by sub-subdivision (c)(2)g.  
23 of this section, once the final determination report becomes effective, the  
24 Commission shall establish a date by which the agency must readopt the  
25 rules. The Commission shall consult with the agency and shall consider the  
26 agency's rule-making priorities in establishing the readoption date. The  
27 agency may amend a rule as part of the readoption process. If a rule is  
28 readopted without substantive ~~change, change~~ or if the rule is amended to  
29 impose a less stringent burden on regulated persons, the agency is not  
30 required to prepare a fiscal note as provided by G.S. 150B-21.4."

31           **SECTION 1.6.(b)** This section is effective when this act becomes law and applies  
32 to periodic review of existing rules occurring pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A on or after that date.

## 33 34 **APO TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARD** 35 **CHANGES**

36           **SECTION 1.7.** Pursuant to G.S. 120-70.101(3a), the Joint Legislative  
37 Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee (APO) shall review the recommendations  
38 contained in the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee's report, entitled  
39 "Occupational Licensing Agencies Should Not be Centralized, but Stronger Oversight is  
40 Needed," to determine the best way to accomplish the recommendations contained in the report  
41 and to improve oversight of occupational licensing boards. In conducting the review, APO shall  
42 consult with occupational licensing boards, licensees, associations representing licensees, the  
43 Department of Commerce, and other interested parties. The APO cochairs may establish  
44 subcommittees to assist with various parts of the review, including determining whether  
45 licensing authority should be continued for the 12 boards identified in the report. The APO  
46 shall propose legislation to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly.

## 47 48 **TECHNICAL CORRECTION**

49           **SECTION 1.8.** G.S. 20-116 reads as rewritten:

50           **"§ 20-116. Size of vehicles and loads.**

51           ...

(g) ...

(3) A truck, trailer, or other vehicle:

a. ~~Licensed vehicle licensed for 7,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and loaded with rock, gravel, stone, or any other similar substance that could fall, blow, leak, or sift, or licensed for any gross vehicle weight and loaded with sand; or sand,~~

b. ~~Licensed for 7,500 pounds or less gross vehicle weight and loaded with rock, gravel, stone, or any other similar substance that could fall, blow, leak, sift, or drop;~~

shall not be driven or moved on any highway unless:

a. The height of the load against all four walls does not extend above a horizontal line six inches below the top when loaded at the loading point;

b. The load is securely covered by tarpaulin or some other suitable covering; or

c. The vehicle is constructed to prevent any of its load from falling, dropping, sifting, leaking, blowing, or otherwise escaping therefrom.

...."

**PART II. BUSINESS REGULATION**

**MANUFACTURED HOME LICENSE/CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK**

**SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 143-143.10A reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143-143.10A. Criminal history checks of applicants for licensure.**

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions shall apply in this section:

(1) Applicant. – A person applying for initial licensure as a manufactured home ~~manufacturer, dealer, salesperson, salesperson~~ or set-up contractor.

...

(b) All applicants for initial licensure shall consent to a criminal history record check. Refusal to consent to a criminal history record check may constitute grounds for the Board to deny licensure to an applicant. The Board shall ensure that the State and national criminal history of an applicant is checked. Applicants shall obtain criminal record reports from one or more reporting services designated by the Board to provide criminal record reports. Each applicant is required to pay the designated service for the cost of the criminal record report. In the alternative, the Board may provide to the North Carolina Department of Public Safety the fingerprints of the applicant to be checked, a form signed by the applicant consenting to the criminal record check and the use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the State or National Repositories of Criminal Histories, and any additional information required by the Department of Public Safety. The Board shall keep all information obtained pursuant to this section confidential.

...."

**AMEND DEFINITION OF "EMPLOYEE" UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT TO EXCLUDE VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICERS OF CERTAIN NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS**

**SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 97-2(2) reads as rewritten:

**"§ 97-2. Definitions.**

When used in this Article, unless the context otherwise requires:

...

(2) Employee. – The term "employee" means every person engaged in an employment under any appointment or contract of hire or apprenticeship,

1 express or implied, oral or written, including aliens, and also minors,  
2 whether lawfully or unlawfully employed, but excluding persons whose  
3 employment is both casual and not in the course of the trade, business,  
4 profession, or occupation of his employer, and as relating to those so  
5 employed by the State, the term "employee" shall include all officers and  
6 employees of the State, including such as are elected by the people, or by the  
7 General Assembly, or appointed by the Governor to serve on a per diem,  
8 part-time or fee basis, either with or without the confirmation of the Senate;  
9 as relating to municipal corporations and political subdivisions of the State,  
10 the term "employee" shall include all officers and employees thereof,  
11 including such as are elected by the people. The term "employee" shall  
12 include members of the North Carolina National Guard while on State active  
13 duty under orders of the Governor and members of the North Carolina State  
14 Defense Militia while on State active duty under orders of the Governor. The  
15 term "employee" shall include deputy sheriffs and all persons acting in the  
16 capacity of deputy sheriffs, whether appointed by the sheriff or by the  
17 governing body of the county and whether serving on a fee basis or on a  
18 salary basis, or whether deputy sheriffs serving upon a full-time basis or a  
19 part-time basis, and including deputy sheriffs appointed to serve in an  
20 emergency, but as to those so appointed, only during the continuation of the  
21 emergency. The sheriff shall furnish to the board of county commissioners a  
22 complete list of all deputy sheriffs named or appointed by him immediately  
23 after their appointment and notify the board of commissioners of any  
24 changes made therein promptly after such changes are made. Any reference  
25 to an employee who has been injured shall, when the employee is dead,  
26 include also the employee's legal representative, dependents, and other  
27 persons to whom compensation may be payable: Provided, further, that any  
28 employee, as herein defined, of a municipality, county, or of the State of  
29 North Carolina, while engaged in the discharge of the employee's official  
30 duty outside the jurisdictional or territorial limits of the municipality, county,  
31 or the State of North Carolina and while acting pursuant to authorization or  
32 instruction from any superior officer, shall have the same rights under this  
33 Article as if such duty or activity were performed within the territorial  
34 boundary limits of their employer.

35 ~~Every~~ Except as otherwise provided herein, every executive officer  
36 elected or appointed and empowered in accordance with the charter and  
37 bylaws of a corporation shall be considered as an employee of such  
38 corporation under this Article.

39 Any such executive officer of a corporation may, notwithstanding any  
40 other provision of this Article, be exempt from the coverage of the  
41 corporation's insurance contract by such corporation's specifically excluding  
42 such executive officer in such contract of insurance, and the exclusion to  
43 remove such executive officer from the coverage shall continue for the  
44 period such contract of insurance is in effect, and during such period such  
45 executive officers thus exempted from the coverage of the insurance contract  
46 shall not be employees of such corporation under this Article.

47 All county agricultural extension service employees who do not receive  
48 official federal appointments as employees of the United States Department  
49 of Agriculture and who are field faculty members with professional rank as  
50 designated in the memorandum of understanding between the North  
51 Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, North Carolina State University, A

1 & T State University, and the boards of county commissioners shall be  
2 deemed to be employees of the State of North Carolina. All other county  
3 agricultural extension service employees paid from State or county funds  
4 shall be deemed to be employees of the county board of commissioners in  
5 the county in which the employee is employed for purposes of workers'  
6 compensation.

7 The term "employee" shall also include members of the Civil Air Patrol  
8 currently certified pursuant to G.S. 143B-1031(a) when performing duties in  
9 the course and scope of a State-approved mission pursuant to Subpart C of  
10 Part 5 of Article 13 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes.

11 "Employee" shall not include any person performing voluntary service as  
12 a ski patrolman who receives no compensation for such services other than  
13 meals or lodging or the use of ski tow or ski lift facilities or any combination  
14 thereof.

15 "Employee" shall not include any person elected or appointed and  
16 empowered as an executive officer, director, or committee member under the  
17 charter, articles, or bylaws of a nonprofit corporation subject to Chapter  
18 47A, 47C, 47F, 55A, or 59B of the General Statutes, or any organization  
19 exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
20 Revenue Code, who performs only voluntary service for the nonprofit  
21 corporation, provided that the person receives no remuneration for the  
22 voluntary service other than reasonable reimbursement for expenses incurred  
23 in connection with the voluntary service. When a nonprofit corporation as  
24 described herein employs one or more persons who do receive remuneration  
25 other than reasonable reimbursement for expenses, then any volunteer  
26 officers, directors, or committee members excluded from the definition of  
27 "employee" by operation of this paragraph shall be counted as employees for  
28 the sole purpose of determining the number of persons regularly employed  
29 in the same business or establishment pursuant to G.S. 97-2(1). Other than  
30 for the limited purpose of determining the number of persons regularly  
31 employed in the same business or establishment, such volunteer nonprofit  
32 officers, directors, or committee members shall not be "employees" under  
33 the Act. Nothing herein shall prohibit a nonprofit corporation as described  
34 herein from voluntarily electing to provide for workers' compensation  
35 benefits in the manner provided in G.S. 97-93 for volunteer officers,  
36 directors, or committee members excluded from the definition of  
37 "employee" by operation of this paragraph. This paragraph shall not apply to  
38 any volunteer firefighter, volunteer member of an organized rescue squad, an  
39 authorized pickup firefighter when that individual is engaged in emergency  
40 fire suppression activities for the North Carolina Forest Service, a duly  
41 appointed and sworn member of an auxiliary police department organized  
42 pursuant to G.S. 160A-282, or a senior member of the State Civil Air Patrol  
43 functioning under Subpart C of Part 5 of Article 13 of Chapter 143B of the  
44 General Statutes, even if such person is elected or appointed and empowered  
45 as an executive officer, director, or committee member under the charter,  
46 articles, or bylaws of a nonprofit corporation as described herein.

47 Any sole proprietor or partner of a business or any member of a limited  
48 liability company may elect to be included as an employee under the  
49 workers' compensation coverage of such business if he is actively engaged in  
50 the operation of the business and if the insurer is notified of his election to  
51 be so included. Any such sole proprietor or partner or member of a limited

1 liability company shall, upon such election, be entitled to employee benefits  
2 and be subject to employee responsibilities prescribed in this Article.

3 ~~Employee~~—"Employee" shall include an authorized pickup firefighter of  
4 the North Carolina Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture and  
5 Consumer Services when that individual is engaged in emergency fire  
6 suppression activities for the North Carolina Forest Service. As used in this  
7 section, "authorized pickup firefighter" means an individual who has  
8 completed required fire suppression training as a wildland firefighter and  
9 who is available as needed by the North Carolina Forest Service for  
10 emergency fire suppression activities, including immediate dispatch to  
11 wildfires and standby for initial attack on fires during periods of high fire  
12 danger.

13 It shall be a rebuttable presumption that the term "employee" shall not  
14 include any person performing services in the sale of newspapers or  
15 magazines to ultimate consumers under an arrangement whereby the  
16 newspapers or magazines are to be sold by that person at a fixed price and  
17 the person's compensation is based on the retention of the excess of the fixed  
18 price over the amount at which the newspapers or magazines are charged to  
19 the person."  
20

### 21 PART III. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT REGULATION

#### 22 23 REDUCE STATE AGENCY MOBILE DEVICE REPORTING FREQUENCY

24 SECTION 3.1. Subsection 6A.14(a) of S.L. 2011-145 reads as rewritten:

25 "SECTION 6A.14.(a) Every executive branch agency within State government shall  
26 develop a policy to limit the issuance and use of mobile electronic devices to the minimum  
27 required to carry out the agency's mission. By September 1, 2011, each agency shall provide a  
28 copy of its policy to the Chairs of the Appropriations Committee and the Appropriations  
29 Subcommittee on General Government of the House of Representatives, the Chairs of the  
30 Appropriations/Base Budget Committee and the Appropriations Committee on General  
31 Government and Information Technology of the Senate, the Chairs of the Joint Legislative  
32 Oversight Committee on Information Technology, the Fiscal Research Division, and the Office  
33 of State Budget and Management.

34 State-issued mobile electronic devices shall be used only for State business. Agencies shall  
35 limit the issuance of cell phones, smart phones, and any other mobile electronic devices to  
36 employees for whom access to a mobile electronic device is a critical requirement for job  
37 performance. The device issued and the plan selected shall be the minimum required to support  
38 the employees' work requirements. This shall include considering the use of pagers in lieu of a  
39 more sophisticated device. The requirement for each mobile electronic device issued shall be  
40 documented in a written justification that shall be maintained by the agency and reviewed  
41 annually. All State agency heads, in consultation with the Office of Information Technology  
42 Services and the Office of State Budget and Management, shall document and review all  
43 authorized cell phone, smart phone, and other mobile electronic communications device  
44 procurement, and related phone, data, Internet, and other usage plans for and by their  
45 employees. Agencies shall conduct periodic audits of mobile device usage to ensure that State  
46 employees and contractors are complying with agency policies and State requirements for their  
47 use.

48 Beginning October 1, 2011, each agency shall report ~~quarterly~~ annually to the Chairs of the  
49 House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations and the House of Representatives  
50 Subcommittee on General Government, the Chairs of the Senate Committee on Appropriations  
51 and the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information



1 Technology, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology, the Fiscal  
2 Research Division, and the Office of State Budget and Management on the following:

- 3 (1) Any changes to agency policies on the use of mobile devices.
- 4 (2) The number and types of new devices issued since the last report.
- 5 (3) The total number of mobile devices issued by the agency.
- 6 (4) The total cost of mobile devices issued by the agency.
- 7 (5) The number of each type of mobile device issued, with the total cost for each  
8 type."

## 10 GOOD SAMARITAN EXPANSION

11 SECTION 3.3.(a) G.S. 14-56 reads as rewritten:

12 "**§ 14-56. Breaking or entering into or breaking out of railroad cars, motor vehicles,  
13 trailers, aircraft, boats, or other watercraft.**

14 (a) If any person, with intent to commit any felony or larceny therein, breaks or enters  
15 any railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or other watercraft of any kind, containing  
16 any goods, wares, freight, or other thing of value, or, after having committed any felony or  
17 larceny therein, breaks out of any railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or other  
18 watercraft of any kind containing any goods, wares, freight, or other thing of value, that person  
19 is guilty of a Class I felony. It is prima facie evidence that a person entered in violation of this  
20 section if he is found unlawfully in such a railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or  
21 other watercraft.

22 (b) It shall not be a violation of this section for any person to break or enter any railroad  
23 car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or other watercraft of any kind to provide assistance to  
24 a person inside the railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or watercraft of any kind if  
25 one or more of the following circumstances exist:

- 26 (1) The person acts in good faith to access the person inside the railroad car,  
27 motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or watercraft of any kind in order to  
28 provide first aid or emergency health care treatment or because the person  
29 inside is, or is in imminent danger of becoming, unconscious, ill, or injured.
- 30 (2) It is reasonably apparent that the circumstances require prompt decisions and  
31 actions in medical, other health care, or other assistance for the person inside  
32 the railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or watercraft of any  
33 kind.
- 34 (3) The necessity of immediate health care treatment or removal of the person  
35 from the railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or other watercraft  
36 of any kind is so reasonably apparent that any delay in the rendering of  
37 treatment or removal would seriously worsen the physical condition or  
38 endanger the life of the person."

39 SECTION 3.3.(b) This section becomes effective September 1, 2015, and applies  
40 to offenses committed on or after that date.

41 SECTION 3.4.(a) Chapter 1 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
42 Article to read:

43 "Article 43F.

44 "Immunity for Damage to Vehicle.

45 **"§ 1-539.27. Immunity from civil liability for damage to railroad car, motor vehicle,  
46 trailer, aircraft, boat, or other watercraft necessary for assistance.**

47 Any person who enters or attempts to enter any railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft,  
48 boat, or other watercraft of any kind shall not be liable in civil damages for any damage to the  
49 railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or other watercraft of any kind if one or more  
50 of the following circumstances exist:

1           (1)    The person acts in good faith to access a person inside the railroad car,  
2           motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or watercraft of any kind in order to  
3           provide first aid or emergency health care treatment or because the person  
4           inside is, or is in imminent danger of becoming, unconscious, ill, or injured.

5           (2)    It is reasonably apparent that the circumstances require prompt decisions and  
6           actions in medical care, other health care, or other assistance.

7           (3)    The necessity of immediate health care treatment or removal of the person  
8           from the railroad car, motor vehicle, trailer, aircraft, boat, or other watercraft  
9           of any kind is so reasonably apparent that any delay in the rendering of  
10          treatment or removal would seriously worsen the physical condition or  
11          endanger the life of the person.

12    This section shall not apply to any acts of gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional  
13    wrongdoing."

14           **SECTION 3.4.(b)** This section becomes effective September 1, 2015, and applies  
15    to causes of action arising on or after that date.

16  
17    **AUTHORIZE DMV TO ISSUE PERMANENT PLATES FOR TRAILERS ATTACHED**  
18    **TO MOTORCYCLES**

19           **SECTION 3.5.(a)** G.S. 20-84(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

20           "(20) A trailer used as an attachment to the rear of a motorcycle."

21           **SECTION 3.5.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2015.

22  
23    **STATUS FOR PROVIDERS OF MH/DD/SA SERVICES WHO ARE NATIONALLY**  
24    **ACCREDITED**

25           **SECTION 3.7.** G.S. 122C-81 reads as rewritten:

26    **"§ 122C-81. National accreditation benchmarks.**

27           (a)    As used in this section, the term:

28           (1)    "National accreditation" applies to accreditation by an entity approved by the  
29           Secretary that accredits mental health, developmental disabilities, and  
30           substance abuse services.

31           (2)    "Provider" applies to only those providers of services, including facilities,  
32           requiring national accreditation, which services are designated by the  
33           Secretary pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

34           (b)    The Secretary, through the Medicaid State Plan, Medicaid waiver, or rules adopted  
35           by the Secretary, shall designate the mental health, developmental disabilities, and substance  
36           abuse services that require national accreditation. In accordance with rules of the Commission,  
37           the Secretary may exempt a provider that is accredited under this section and in good standing  
38           with the national accrediting agency from undergoing any routine monitoring that is duplicative  
39           of the oversight by the national accrediting agency.

40           ...

41           (e)    The Commission may adopt rules establishing a procedure by which a provider that  
42           is accredited under this section and in good standing with the national accrediting agency may  
43           be exempt from undergoing any routine monitoring that is duplicative of the oversight by the  
44           national accrediting agency. Any provider shall continue to be subject to inspection by the  
45           Secretary, provided the inspection is not duplicative of inspections required by the national  
46           accrediting agency. Rules adopted under this subsection may not waive any requirements that  
47           may be imposed under federal law."

48  
49    **CLARIFY THAT WHEN A NEW PERMIT OR TRANSITIONAL PERMIT IS ISSUED**  
50    **FOR AN ESTABLISHMENT, ANY PREVIOUS PERMIT FOR THAT SAME**  
51    **ESTABLISHMENT IN THAT LOCATION BECOMES VOID**

1           **SECTION 3.8.** G.S. 130A-248(c) reads as rewritten:

2           "(c) If ownership of an establishment is transferred or the establishment is leased, the  
3 new owner or lessee shall apply for a new permit. The new owner or lessee may also apply for  
4 a transitional permit. A transitional permit may be issued upon the transfer of ownership or  
5 lease of an establishment to allow the correction of construction and equipment problems that  
6 do not represent an immediate threat to the public health. Upon issuance of a new permit or a  
7 transitional permit for ~~at~~the same establishment, any previously issued permit for an  
8 establishment in that location becomes void. This subsection does not prohibit issuing more  
9 than one owner or lessee a permit for the same location if (i) more than one establishment is  
10 operated in the same physical location and (ii) each establishment satisfies all of the rules and  
11 requirements of subsection (g) of this section."

### 12 13 **OPEN AND FAIR COMPETITION WITH RESPECT TO THE MATERIALS USED IN** 14 **WASTEWATER, STORMWATER, AND OTHER WATER PROJECTS**

15           **SECTION 3.9.(a)** Article 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by  
16 adding a new section to read:

17 **"§ 143-129.10. Public entities shall consider all acceptable piping materials in**  
18 **State-funded water, wastewater, or stormwater projects.**

19           (a) Consideration of All Acceptable Piping Materials Required. – A public entity shall  
20 consider all acceptable piping materials before determining which piping material should be  
21 used in the construction, development, financing, maintaining, rebuilding, improving, repairing,  
22 procuring, or operating of a water, wastewater, or stormwater drainage project that is funded in  
23 whole or in part with State funds unless sound engineering practices, as determined by a  
24 professional engineer licensed to practice pursuant to Chapter 89C of the General Statutes,  
25 suggest that one type of acceptable piping material is more suitable for a particular project.

26           (b) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

27           (1) Acceptable piping material. – Piping material that meets or exceeds the  
28 standards issued by the American Society for Testing and Materials, the  
29 American Water Works Association, or the American Association of State  
30 Highway & Transportation Officials.

31           (2) Public entity. – A State agency, county, city, sanitary district created under  
32 Part 2 of Article 2 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes, authority created  
33 under Article 1 of Chapter 162A of the General Statutes, metropolitan  
34 sewerage district created under Article 5 of Chapter 162A of the General  
35 Statutes, county water and sewer district created under Article 6 of Chapter  
36 162A of the General Statutes, or any other political subdivision of the State."

37           **SECTION 3.9.(b)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2015, and applies to  
38 projects initiated on or after that date.

### 39 40 **LICENSED SURVEYOR TO MARK BOUNDARIES OF STATE PROPERTIES**

41           **SECTION 3.10.(a)** G.S. 146-33 reads as rewritten:

42 **"§ 146-33. State agencies to locate and mark boundaries of lands.**

43           (a) Every State agency shall locate and identify, and shall mark and keep marked, the  
44 boundaries of all lands allocated to that agency or under its control. The Department of  
45 Administration shall locate and identify, and mark and keep marked, the boundaries of all State  
46 lands not allocated to or under the control of any other State agency. The chief administrative  
47 officer of every State agency is authorized to contract with the Division of Adult Correction of  
48 the Department of Public Safety for the furnishing, upon such conditions as may be agreed  
49 upon from time to time between the Division of Adult Correction of the Department of Public  
50 Safety and the chief administrative officer of that agency, of prison labor for use where feasible  
51 in the performance of these duties.

1        (b) If a State agency contracts with a person who is not employed by the State to mark  
2 or keep marked the boundaries of lands allocated to that agency, or under that agency's control,  
3 that State agency shall use only a licensed professional engineer or surveyor."

4                **SECTION 3.10.(b)** This section becomes effective October 1, 2015, and applies to  
5 surveys or markings conducted on or after that date.

6  
7 **AMEND UNDERGROUND DAMAGE PREVENTION REVIEW BOARD,**  
8 **ENFORCEMENT, AND CIVIL PENALTIES**

9                **SECTION 3.12.** G.S. 87-129 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 87-129. Underground Damage Prevention Review Board; enforcement; civil penalties.**

11        ~~(a) The Notification Center shall establish an~~ There is hereby established the  
12 Underground Damage Prevention Review Board to review reports of alleged violations of this  
13 Article. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Governor. The Board shall consist  
14 of the following members: 15 members as follows:

- 15                (1) A representative from the North Carolina Department of Transportation;
- 16                (2) A representative from a facility contract locator;
- 17                (3) A representative from the Notification Center;
- 18                (4) A representative from an electric public utility;
- 19                (5) A representative from the telecommunications industry;
- 20                (6) A representative from a natural gas utility;
- 21                (7) A representative from a hazardous liquid transmission pipeline company;
- 22                (8) A representative recommended by the League of Municipalities;
- 23                (9) A highway contractor licensed under G.S. 87-10(b)(2) who does not own or
- 24                operate facilities;
- 25                (10) A public utilities contractor licensed under G.S. 87-10(b)(3) who does not
- 26                own or operate facilities;
- 27                (11) A surveyor licensed under Chapter 89C of the General Statutes;
- 28                (12) A representative from a rural water system;
- 29                (13) A representative from an investor-owned water system;
- 30                (14) A representative from an electric membership corporation; and
- 31                (15) A representative from a cable company.

32        (a1) Each member of the Board shall be appointed for a term of four years. Members of  
33 the Board may serve no more than two consecutive terms. Vacancies in appointments made by  
34 the Governor occurring prior to the expiration of a term shall be filled by appointment for the  
35 unexpired term.

36        (a2) No member of the Board may serve on a case where there would be a conflict of  
37 interest.

38        (a3) The Governor may remove any member at any time for cause.

39        (a4) Eight members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

40        (a5) The Governor shall designate one member of the Board as chair.

41        (a6) The Board may adopt rules to implement this Article.

42        ~~(b) The Notification Center shall transmit all reports of alleged violations of this Article~~  
43 ~~to the Board, including any information received by the Notification Center regarding the~~  
44 ~~report. The Board shall meet at least quarterly to review all reports filed pursuant to~~  
45 ~~G.S. 87-120(e). The Board shall act as an arbitrator between the parties to the report. If, after~~  
46 ~~reviewing the report and any accompanying information, the Board determines that a violation~~  
47 ~~of this Article has occurred, the Board shall notify the violating party in writing of its~~  
48 ~~determination and the recommended penalty. The violating party~~

49        (b1) The Board shall review all reports of alleged violations of this Article and  
50 accompanying information. If the Board determines that a person has violated any provision of  
51 this Article, the Board shall determine the appropriate action or penalty to impose for each such

1 violation. Actions and penalties may include training, education, and a civil penalty not to  
 2 exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). The Board shall notify each person who is  
 3 determined to have violated this Article in writing of the Board's determination and the Board's  
 4 recommended action or penalty. A person determined to be in violation of this Article may  
 5 request a hearing before the Board, after which the Board may reverse or uphold its original  
 6 finding. If the Board recommends a penalty, the Board shall notify the Utilities Commission of  
 7 the recommended penalty, and the Utilities Commission shall issue an order imposing the  
 8 penalty.

9 (c) A ~~party-person~~ determined by the Board under subsection ~~(b)-(b1)~~ of this section to  
 10 have violated this Article may ~~initiate~~ appeal the Board's determination by initiating an  
 11 arbitration proceeding before the Utilities Commission. Commission within 30 days of the  
 12 Board's determination. If the violating party elects to initiate an arbitration proceeding, the  
 13 violating party shall pay a filing fee of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) to the Utilities  
 14 Commission, and the Utilities Commission shall open a docket regarding the report. The  
 15 Utilities Commission shall direct the parties enter into an arbitration process. The parties shall  
 16 be responsible for selecting and contracting with the arbitrator. Upon completion of the  
 17 arbitration process, the Utilities Commission shall issue an order encompassing the outcome of  
 18 the binding arbitration process, including a determination of fault, a penalty, and assessing the  
 19 costs of arbitration to the non-prevailing party. ~~Any party may~~

20 (c1) A person may timely appeal an order issued by the Utilities Commission pursuant to  
 21 this section to the superior court division of the General Court of Justice in the county where  
 22 the alleged violation of this Article occurred or in Wake County, for trial de novo. de novo  
 23 within 30 days of entry of the Utilities Commission's order. The authority granted to the  
 24 Utilities Commission within this section is limited to this section and does not grant the  
 25 Utilities Commission any authority that they are not otherwise granted under Chapter 62 of the  
 26 General Statutes.

27 (d) ~~Any person who violates any provision of this Article shall be subject to a penalty~~  
 28 ~~as set forth in this subsection.~~ The provisions of this Article do not affect any civil remedies for  
 29 personal injury or property damage otherwise available to any person, except as otherwise  
 30 specifically provided for in this Article. The penalty provisions of this Article are cumulative to  
 31 and not in conflict with provisions of law with respect to civil remedies for personal injury or  
 32 property damage. The clear proceeds of any civil penalty assessed under this section shall be  
 33 used as provided in Section 7(a) of Article IX of the North Carolina Constitution. ~~The penalties~~  
 34 ~~for a violation of this Article shall be as follows:~~ In any arbitration proceeding before the  
 35 Utilities Commission, any actions and penalties assessed against any person for violation of this  
 36 Article shall include the actions and penalties set out in subsection (b1) of this section.

- 37 (1) ~~If the violation was the result of negligence, the penalty shall be a~~  
 38 ~~requirement of training, a requirement of education, or both.~~  
 39 (2) ~~If the violation was the result of gross negligence, the penalty shall be a civil~~  
 40 ~~penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), a requirement of training, a~~  
 41 ~~requirement of education, or a combination of the three.~~  
 42 (3) ~~If the violation was the result of willful or wanton negligence or intentional~~  
 43 ~~conduct, the penalty shall be a civil penalty of two thousand five hundred~~  
 44 ~~dollars (\$2,500), a requirement of training, and a requirement of education."~~  
 45

46 **CONFORM NORTH CAROLINA ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE LAWS TO NATIONAL**  
 47 **SAFETY AND DESIGN STANDARDS FOR YOUTH OPERATORS**

48 **SECTION 3.13.(a)** G.S. 20-171.15 reads as rewritten:

49 **"§ 20-171.15. Age restrictions.**

50 (a) It is unlawful for any parent or legal guardian of a person less than ~~eight~~six years of  
 51 age to knowingly permit that person to operate an all-terrain vehicle.

1 (b) ~~It is unlawful for any parent or legal guardian of a person less than 12 years of age~~  
2 ~~to knowingly permit that person to operate an all-terrain vehicle with an engine capacity of 70~~  
3 ~~cubic centimeter displacement or greater.~~

4 (c) It is unlawful for any parent or legal guardian of a person less than 16 years of age  
5 to knowingly permit that person to operate an all-terrain vehicle ~~with an engine capacity greater~~  
6 ~~than 90 cubic centimeter displacement in violation of the Age Restriction Warning Label~~  
7 ~~affixed by the manufacturer as required by the applicable American National Standards~~  
8 ~~Institute/Specialty Vehicle Institute of America (ANSI/SVIA) design standard.~~

9 (d) It is unlawful for any parent or legal guardian of a person less than 16 years of age  
10 to knowingly permit that person to operate an all-terrain vehicle unless the person is under the  
11 continuous visual supervision of a person 18 years of age or older while operating the  
12 all-terrain vehicle.

13 (e) ~~Subsections (b) and Subsection (c) of this section do~~ does not apply to any parent or  
14 legal guardian of a person born on or before August 15, 1997, who permits that person to  
15 operate an all-terrain vehicle and who establishes proof that the parent or legal guardian owned  
16 the all-terrain vehicle prior to August 15, 2005."

17 **SECTION 3.13.(b)** G.S. 20-171.17 reads as rewritten:

18 **"§ 20-171.17. Prohibited acts by sellers.**

19 No person shall knowingly sell or offer to sell an all-terrain vehicle:

20 (1) For use by a person under the age of ~~eightsix~~ years.

21 (2) ~~With an engine capacity of 70 cubic centimeter displacement or greater for~~  
22 ~~use by a person less than 12 years of age.~~In violation of the Age Restriction  
23 Warning Label affixed by the manufacturer as required by the applicable  
24 American National Standards Institute/Specialty Vehicle Institute of  
25 America (ANSI/SVIA) design standard for use by a person less than 16  
26 years of age.

27 (3) ~~With an engine capacity of greater than 90 cubic centimeter displacement for~~  
28 ~~use by a person less than 16 years of age."~~

## 30 PART IV. ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES REGULATION

### 32 ENVIRONMENTAL SELF-AUDIT PRIVILEGE AND LIMITED IMMUNITY

33 **SECTION 4.1.(a)** Chapter 8 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
34 Part to read:

35 "Part 7D. Environmental Audit Privilege and Limited Immunity.

#### 36 **"§ 8-58.50. Purpose.**

37 (a) In order to encourage owners and operators of facilities and persons conducting  
38 activities regulated under those portions of the General Statutes set forth in G.S. 8-58.52, or  
39 conducting activities regulated under other environmental laws, to conduct voluntary internal  
40 environmental audits of their compliance programs and management systems and to assess and  
41 improve compliance with statutes, an environmental audit privilege is recognized to protect the  
42 confidentiality of communications relating to voluntary internal environmental audits.

43 (b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, nothing in this Part shall be construed  
44 to protect owners and operators of facilities and regulated persons from a criminal investigation  
45 or prosecution carried out by any appropriate governmental entity.

46 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any privilege granted by this Part shall  
47 apply only to those communications, oral or written, pertaining to and made in connection with  
48 the environmental audit and shall not apply to the facts relating to the violation itself.

#### 49 **"§ 8-58.51. Definitions.**

50 The following definitions apply in this Part:

51 (1) "Department" means the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

- 1           (2)    "Enforcement agencies" means the Department, any other agency of the  
2           State, and units of local government responsible for enforcement of  
3           environmental laws.
- 4           (3)    "Environmental audit" means a voluntary, internal evaluation or review of  
5           one or more facilities or an activity at one or more facilities regulated under  
6           federal, State, regional, or local environmental law, or of compliance  
7           programs, or management systems related to the facility or activity if  
8           designed to identify and prevent noncompliance and to improve compliance  
9           with these laws. For the purposes of this Part, an environmental audit does  
10          not include an environmental site assessment of a facility conducted solely  
11          in anticipation of the purchase, sale, or transfer of the business or facility. An  
12          environmental audit may be conducted by the owner or operator, the parent  
13          corporation of the owner or operator or by their officers or employees, or by  
14          independent contractors. An environmental audit must be a discrete activity  
15          with a specified beginning date and scheduled ending date reflecting the  
16          auditor's bona fide intended completion schedule.
- 17          (4)    "Environmental audit report" means a document marked or identified as  
18          such with a completion date existing either individually or as a compilation  
19          prepared in connection with an environmental audit. An environmental audit  
20          report may include field notes and records of observations, findings,  
21          opinions, suggestions, recommendations, conclusions, drafts, memoranda,  
22          drawings, photographs, computer-generated or electronically recorded  
23          information, maps, charts, graphs, and surveys, provided the supporting  
24          information is collected or developed for the primary purpose and in the  
25          course of an environmental audit. An environmental audit report, when  
26          completed, may include all of the following components:
- 27               a.    An audit report prepared by an auditor, which may include the scope  
28               and date of the audit and the information gained in the audit, together  
29               with exhibits and appendices and may include conclusions,  
30               recommendations, exhibits, and appendices.
- 31               b.    Memoranda and documents analyzing any portion of the audit report  
32               or issues relating to the implementation of an audit report.
- 33               c.    An implementation plan that addresses correcting past  
34               noncompliance, improving current compliance, or preventing future  
35               noncompliance.
- 36          (5)    "Environmental laws" means all provisions of federal, State, and local laws,  
37          rules, and ordinances pertaining to environmental matters.

38    **§ 8-58.52. Applicability.**

39    This Part applies to activities regulated under environmental laws, including all of the  
40    following provisions of the General Statutes, and rules adopted thereunder:

- 41           (1)    Article 7 of Chapter 74.  
42           (2)    Chapter 104E.  
43           (3)    Article 25 of Chapter 113.  
44           (4)    Articles 1, 4, and 7 of Chapter 113A.  
45           (5)    Article 9 of Chapter 130A.  
46           (6)    Articles 21, 21A, and 21B of Chapter 143.  
47           (7)    Part 1 of Article 7 of Chapter 143B.

48    **§ 8-58.53. Environmental audit report; privilege.**

49    (a) An environmental audit report or any part of an environmental audit report is  
50    privileged and, therefore, immune from discovery and is not admissible as evidence in civil or

1 administrative proceedings, except as provided in G.S. 8-58.54 and G.S. 8-58.56. Provided,  
2 however, all of the following documents are exempt from the privilege established by this Part:

- 3 (1) Information obtained by observation of an enforcement agency.
- 4 (2) Information obtained from a source independent of the environmental audit.
- 5 (3) Documents, communication, data, reports, or other information required to  
6 be collected, maintained, otherwise made available, or reported to an  
7 enforcement agency or any other entity by environmental laws, permits,  
8 orders, consent agreements, or as otherwise provided by law.
- 9 (4) Documents prepared either prior to the beginning of the environmental audit  
10 or subsequent to the completion date of the audit report and, in all cases, any  
11 documents prepared independent of the audit or audit report.
- 12 (5) Documents prepared as a result of multiple or continuous self-auditing  
13 conducted in an effort to intentionally avoid liability for violations.
- 14 (6) Information that is knowingly misrepresented or misstated or that is  
15 knowingly deleted or withheld from an environmental audit report, whether  
16 or not included in a subsequent environmental audit report.
- 17 (7) Information in instances where the material shows evidence of  
18 noncompliance with environmental laws, permits, orders, consent  
19 agreements, and the owner or operator failed to either promptly take  
20 corrective action or eliminate any violation of law identified during the  
21 environmental audit within a reasonable period of time.

22 (b) If an environmental audit report or any part of an environmental audit report is  
23 subject to the privilege provided for in subsection (a) of this section, no person who conducted  
24 or participated in the audit or who significantly reviewed the audit report may be compelled to  
25 testify regarding the audit report or a privileged part of the audit report except as provided for  
26 in G.S. 8-58.53(d), 8-58.54, or 8-58.56.

27 (c) Nothing in this Part shall be construed to restrict a party in a proceeding before the  
28 Industrial Commission from obtaining or discovering any evidence necessary or appropriate for  
29 the proof of any issue pending in an action before the Commission, regardless of whether  
30 evidence is privileged pursuant to this Part. Further, nothing in this Part shall be construed to  
31 prevent the admissibility of evidence that is otherwise relevant and admissible in a proceeding  
32 before the Industrial Commission, regardless of whether the evidence is privileged pursuant to  
33 this Part. Provided, however, the Commission, upon motion made by a party to the proceeding,  
34 may issue appropriate protective orders preventing disclosure of information outside of the  
35 Commission's proceeding.

36 (d) Nothing in this Part shall be construed to circumvent the employee protection  
37 provisions provided by federal or State law.

38 (e) The privilege created by this Part does not apply to criminal investigations or  
39 proceedings. Where an audit report is obtained, reviewed, or used in a criminal proceeding, the  
40 privilege created by this Part shall continue to apply and is not waived in civil and  
41 administrative proceedings and is not discoverable or admissible in civil or administrative  
42 proceedings even if disclosed during a criminal proceeding.

43 **"§ 8-58.54. Waiver of privilege.**

44 (a) The privilege established under G.S. 8-58.53 does not apply to the extent that it is  
45 expressly waived in writing by the owner or operator of a facility at which an environmental  
46 audit was conducted and who prepared or caused to be prepared the audit report as a result of  
47 the audit.

48 (b) The audit report and information generated by the audit may be disclosed without  
49 waiving the privilege established under G.S. 8-58.53 to all of the following persons:

- 50 (1) A person employed by the owner or operator or the parent corporation of the  
51 audited facility.



1           (2)    A legal representative of the owner or operator or parent corporation.

2           (3)    An independent contractor retained by the owner or operator or parent  
3           corporation to conduct an audit on or to address an issue or issues raised by  
4           the audit.

5           (c)    Disclosure of an audit report or information generated by the audit under all of the  
6           following circumstances shall not constitute a waiver of the privilege established under  
7           G.S. 8-58.53:

8           (1)    Disclosure made under the terms of a confidentiality agreement between the  
9           owner or operator of the facility audited and a potential purchaser of the  
10           business or facility audited.

11           (2)    Disclosure made under the terms of a confidentiality agreement between  
12           governmental officials and the owner or operator of the facility audited.

13           (3)    Disclosure made under the terms of a confidentiality agreement between a  
14           customer, lending institution, or insurance company with an existing or  
15           proposed relationship with the facility.

16    **"§ 8-58.55. Notification of audit.**

17           In order to assert the privilege established under G.S. 8-58.53, the owner or operator of the  
18           facility conducting the environmental audit shall, upon inspection of the facility by an  
19           enforcement agency, or no later than 10 working days after completion of an agency's  
20           inspection, notify the enforcement agency of the existence of any audit relevant to the subject  
21           of the agency's inspection, as well as the beginning date and completion date of that audit. Any  
22           environmental audit report shall include a signed certification from the owner or operator of the  
23           facility that documents the date the audit began and the completion date of the audit.

24    **"§ 8-58.56. Revocation of privilege in civil and administrative proceedings.**

25           In a civil or administrative proceeding, an enforcement agency may seek by motion a  
26           declaratory ruling on the issue of whether an environmental audit report is privileged. The court  
27           shall revoke the privilege established under G.S. 8-58.53 for an audit report if the factors set  
28           forth in this section apply. In a civil proceeding, the court, after an in camera review, shall  
29           revoke the privilege established under G.S. 8-58.53 if the court determines that disclosure of  
30           the environmental audit report was sought after the effective date of this Part and either of the  
31           following apply:

32           (1)    The privilege is asserted for purposes of deception or evasion.

33           (2)    The material shows evidence of significant noncompliance with applicable  
34           environmental laws; the owner or operator of the facility has not promptly  
35           initiated and pursued with diligence appropriate action to achieve  
36           compliance with these environmental laws or has not made reasonable  
37           efforts to complete any necessary permit application; and, as a result, the  
38           owner or operator of the facility did not or will not achieve compliance with  
39           applicable environmental laws or did not or will not complete the necessary  
40           permit application within a reasonable period of time.

41    **"§ 8-58.57. Privilege in criminal proceedings.**

42           The privilege established under G.S. 8-58.53 is not applicable in any criminal proceeding.

43    **"§ 8-58.58. Burden of proof.**

44           A party asserting the privilege established under G.S. 8-58.53 has the burden of proving  
45           that (i) the materials claimed as privileged constitute an environmental audit report as defined  
46           by this Part and (ii) compliance has been achieved or will be achieved within a reasonable  
47           period of time. A party seeking disclosure under G.S. 8-58.56 has the burden of proving the  
48           condition for disclosure set forth in that section.

49    **"§ 8-58.59. Stipulations; declaratory rulings.**

50           The parties to a proceeding may at any time stipulate to entry of an order directing that  
51           specific information contained in an environmental audit report is or is not subject to the

1 privilege. In the absence of an ongoing proceeding, where the parties are not in agreement, an  
2 enforcement agency may seek a declaratory ruling from a court on the issue of whether the  
3 materials are privileged under G.S. 8-58.53 and whether the privilege, if existing, should be  
4 revoked pursuant to G.S. 8-58.56.

5 **"§ 8-58.60. Construction of Part.**

6 Nothing in this Part limits, waives, or abrogates any of the following:

- 7 (1) The scope or nature of any statutory or common law privilege, including the  
8 work-product privilege or the attorney-client privilege.
- 9 (2) Any existing ability or authority under State law to challenge privilege.
- 10 (3) An enforcement agency's ability to obtain or use documents or information  
11 that the agency otherwise has the authority to obtain under State law adopted  
12 pursuant to federally delegated programs.

13 **"§ 8-58.61. Voluntary disclosure; limited immunity from civil and administrative**  
14 **penalties and fines.**

15 (a) An owner or operator of a facility is immune from imposition of civil and  
16 administrative penalties and fines for a violation of environmental laws voluntarily disclosed  
17 subject to the requirements and criteria set forth in this section. Provided, however, that waiver  
18 of penalties and fines shall not be granted until the applicable enforcement agency has certified  
19 that the violation was corrected within a reasonable period of time. If compliance is not  
20 certified by the enforcement agency, the enforcement agency shall retain discretion to assess  
21 penalties and fines for the violation.

22 (b) If a person or entity makes a voluntary disclosure of a violation of environmental  
23 laws discovered through performance of an environmental audit, that person has the burden of  
24 proving (i) that the disclosure is voluntary by establishing the elements set forth in subsection  
25 (c) of this section and (ii) that the person is therefore entitled to immunity from any  
26 administrative or civil penalties associated with the issues disclosed. Nothing in this section  
27 may be construed to provide immunity from criminal penalties.

28 (c) For purposes of this section, disclosure is voluntary if all of the following criteria  
29 are met:

- 30 (1) The disclosure is made within 14 days following a reasonable investigation  
31 of the violation's discovery through the environmental audit.
- 32 (2) The disclosure is made to an enforcement agency having regulatory  
33 authority over the violation disclosed.
- 34 (3) The person or entity making the disclosure initiates an action to resolve the  
35 violation identified in the disclosure in a diligent manner.
- 36 (4) The person or entity making the disclosure cooperates with the applicable  
37 enforcement agency in connection with investigation of the issues identified  
38 in the disclosure.
- 39 (5) The person or entity making the disclosure diligently pursues compliance  
40 and promptly corrects the noncompliance within a reasonable period of time.

41 (d) A disclosure is not voluntary for purposes of this section if any of the following  
42 factors apply:

- 43 (1) Specific permit conditions require monitoring or sampling records and  
44 reports or assessment plans and management plans to be maintained or  
45 submitted to the enforcement agency pursuant to an established schedule.
- 46 (2) Environmental laws or specific permit conditions require notification of  
47 releases to the environment.
- 48 (3) The violation was committed intentionally, willfully, or through criminal  
49 negligence by the person or entity making the disclosure.
- 50 (4) The violation was not corrected in a diligent manner.

- 1           (5)    The violation posed or poses a significant threat to public health, safety, and  
2           welfare; the environment; and natural resources.
- 3           (6)    The violation occurred within one year of a similar prior violation at the  
4           same facility, and immunity from civil and administrative penalties was  
5           granted by the applicable enforcement agency for the prior violation.
- 6           (7)    The violation has resulted in a substantial economic benefit to the owner or  
7           operator of the facility.
- 8           (8)    The violation is a violation of the specific terms of a judicial or  
9           administrative order.

10       (e)    If a person meets the burden of proving that the disclosure is voluntary, the burden  
11       shifts to the enforcement agency to prove that the disclosure was not voluntary, based upon the  
12       factors set forth in this section. The person claiming immunity from civil or administrative  
13       penalties or fines under this section retains the ultimate burden of proving the violations were  
14       voluntarily disclosed.

15       (f)    A voluntary disclosure made pursuant to this section is subject to disclosure  
16       pursuant to the Public Records Act in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 132 of the  
17       General Statutes.

18       **"§ 8-58.62. Additional limitations on exercise of privilege or immunity.**

19       An owner or operator of a facility who makes a voluntary disclosure of a violation of  
20       environmental laws discovered through performance of an environmental audit shall only be  
21       entitled to exercise of the privilege or immunity established by this Part once in a two-year  
22       period, not more than twice in a five-year period, and not more than three times in a 10-year  
23       period.

24       **"§ 8-58.63. Preemption of local laws.**

25       No local law, rule, ordinance, or permit condition may circumvent or limit the privilege  
26       established by this Part or the exercise of the privileges or the presumption and immunity  
27       established by this Part."

28       **SECTION 4.1.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2015, and applies to  
29       environmental audits, as defined in G.S. 8-58.51, as enacted by subsection (a) of this section,  
30       that are conducted on or after that date.

31  
32       **REPEAL RECYCLING REQUIREMENTS FOR DISCARDED COMPUTER**  
33       **EQUIPMENT AND TELEVISIONS**

34       **SECTION 4.2.(a)** Part 2H of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is  
35       repealed.

36       **SECTION 4.2.(b)** G.S. 130A-309.09A(d)(8) is repealed.

37  
38       **PROHIBIT IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL STANDARDS**  
39       **FOR WOOD HEATERS AND FOR FUEL SOURCES THAT PROVIDE HEAT OR**  
40       **HOT WATER TO A RESIDENCE OR BUSINESS**

41       **SECTION 4.3.(a)** G.S. 143-215.107 reads as rewritten:

42       **"§ 143-215.107. Air quality standards and classifications.**

43       (a)    Duty to Adopt Plans, Standards, etc. – The Commission is hereby directed and  
44       empowered, as rapidly as possible within the limits of funds and facilities available to it, and  
45       subject to the procedural requirements of this Article and Article 21:

- 46       ...
- 47       (10)    ~~To~~ Except as provided in subsections (h) and (i) of this section, to develop  
48       and adopt standards and plans necessary to implement requirements of the  
49       federal Clean Air Act and implementing regulations adopted by the United  
50       States Environmental Protection Agency.

51       ...

1        (h) With respect to any regulation adopted by the United States Environmental  
2 Protection Agency limiting emissions from wood heaters and adopted after May 1, 2014,  
3 neither the Commission nor the Department shall do any of the following:

4            (1) Issue rules limiting emissions from wood heaters to implement the federal  
5 regulations described in this subsection.

6            (2) Enforce against a manufacturer, distributor, or consumer the federal  
7 regulations described in this subsection.

8        (i) Neither the Commission nor the Department shall enforce any federal air emissions  
9 standard adopted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency after May 1, 2014,  
10 that would jeopardize the health, safety, or economic well-being of a citizen of this State  
11 through the regulation of fuel combustion that is used directly or indirectly to provide (i) hot  
12 water or comfort heating to a residence or (ii) comfort heating to a business."

13        **SECTION 4.3.(b)** G.S. 143-213 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

14        "(31) "Wood heater" means a fireplace, wood stove, pellet stove, wood-fired  
15 hydronic heater, wood-burning forced-air furnace, or masonry wood heater  
16 or other similar appliance designed for heating a residence or business or for  
17 heating water for use by a residence through the combustion of wood or  
18 products substantially composed of wood."

## 20 **AMEND PROCESS FOR STATE ADOPTION OF FEDERAL AIR QUALITY** 21 **STANDARDS**

22        **SECTION 4.4.(a)** 15A NCAC 02D .0524(c) (New Source Performance Standards).

23 – Until the effective date of the revised permanent rule that the Environmental Management  
24 Commission is required to adopt pursuant to Section 4.4(c) of this act, the Commission and the  
25 Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall implement 15A NCAC 02D .0524(c)  
26 (New Source Performance Standards) as provided in Section 4.4(b) of this act.

27        **SECTION 4.4.(b)** Implementation. – Notwithstanding 15A NCAC 02D .0524(c)  
28 (New Source Performance Standards), the Commission shall not adopt a new source  
29 performance standard promulgated in Part 60 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations  
30 except by a three-fifths vote of the Commission. If the Commission adopts new source  
31 performance standards promulgated in Part 60 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations as  
32 provided in this section, those rules shall be subject to legislative review as provided in  
33 G.S. 150B-21.3(b1) as though 10 or more written objections had been received as provided by  
34 G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

35        **SECTION 4.4.(c)** Additional Rule-Making Authority. – The Environmental  
36 Management Commission shall adopt a rule to amend 15A NCAC 02D .0524(c) (New Source  
37 Performance Standards) consistent with Section 4.4(b) of this act. Notwithstanding  
38 G.S. 150B-19(4), the rule adopted by the Commission pursuant to this section shall be  
39 substantively identical to the provisions of Section 4.4(b) of this act. Rules adopted pursuant to  
40 this section are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.  
41 Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall become effective as provided in  
42 G.S. 150B-21.3(b1) as though 10 or more written objections had been received as provided by  
43 G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

44        **SECTION 4.4.(d)** Sunset. – Section 4.4(b) of this act expires on the date that the  
45 rule adopted pursuant to Section 4.4(c) of this act becomes effective.

46        **SECTION 4.5.(a)** 15A NCAC 02D .1111(c) (Maximum Achievable Control  
47 Technology). – Until the effective date of the revised permanent rule that the Environmental  
48 Management Commission is required to adopt pursuant to Section 4.5(c) of this act, the  
49 Commission and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall implement 15A  
50 NCAC 02D .1111(c) (Maximum Achievable Control Technology) as provided in Section  
51 4.5(b) of this act.

1           **SECTION 4.5.(b)** Implementation. – Notwithstanding 15A NCAC 02D .1111(c)  
2 (Maximum Achievable Control Technology), the Commission shall not adopt maximum  
3 achievable control technology standards promulgated in Part 63 of Title 40 of the Code of  
4 Federal Regulations except by a three-fifths vote of the Commission. If the Commission adopts  
5 maximum achievable control technology standards promulgated in Part 63 of Title 40 of the  
6 Code of Federal Regulations as provided in this section, those rules shall be subject to  
7 legislative review as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1) as though 10 or more written objections  
8 had been received as provided by G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

9           **SECTION 4.5.(c)** Additional Rule-Making Authority. – The Environmental  
10 Management Commission shall adopt a rule to amend 15A NCAC 02D .1111(c) (Maximum  
11 Achievable Control Technology) consistent with Section 4.5(b) of this act. Notwithstanding  
12 G.S. 150B-19(4), the rule adopted by the Commission pursuant to this section shall be  
13 substantively identical to the provisions of Section 4.5(b) of this act. Rules adopted pursuant to  
14 this section are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.  
15 Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall become effective as provided in  
16 G.S. 150B-21.3(b1) as though 10 or more written objections had been received as provided by  
17 G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

18           **SECTION 4.5.(d)** Sunset. – Section 4.5(b) of this act expires on the date that the  
19 rule adopted pursuant to Section 4.5(c) of this act becomes effective.

20           **SECTION 4.6.(a)** 15A NCAC 02D .1110(b) (National Emissions Standards for  
21 Hazardous Air Pollutants). – Until the effective date of the revised permanent rule that the  
22 Environmental Management Commission is required to adopt pursuant to Section 4.6(c) of this  
23 act, the Commission and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall  
24 implement 15A NCAC 02D .1110(b) (National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air  
25 Pollutants) as provided in Section 4.6(b) of this act.

26           **SECTION 4.6.(b)** Implementation. – 15A NCAC 02D .1110(b) (National  
27 Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants), the Commission shall not adopt national  
28 emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants promulgated in Part 61 of Title 40 of the Code  
29 of Federal Regulations except by a three-fifths vote of the Commission. If the Commission  
30 adopts national emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants promulgated in Part 61 of Title  
31 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations as provided in this section, those rules shall be subject to  
32 legislative review as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1) as though 10 or more written objections  
33 had been received as provided by G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

34           **SECTION 4.6.(c)** Additional Rule-Making Authority. – The Environmental  
35 Management Commission shall adopt a rule to amend 15A NCAC 02D .1110(b) (National  
36 Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants) consistent with Section 4.6(b) of this act.  
37 Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-19(4), the rule adopted by the Commission pursuant to this section  
38 shall be substantively identical to the provisions of Section 4.6(b) of this act. Rules adopted  
39 pursuant to this section are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General  
40 Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall become effective as provided in  
41 G.S. 150B-21.3(b1) as though 10 or more written objections had been received as provided by  
42 G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

43           **SECTION 4.6.(d)** Sunset. – Section 4.6(b) of this act expires on the date that the  
44 rule adopted pursuant to Section 4.6(c) of this act becomes effective.

45           **SECTION 4.6A.** Effective January 1, 2016, the Environmental Management  
46 Commission shall not enforce any federal standard that was adopted by reference pursuant to  
47 15A NCAC 02D .0524(c), 15A NCAC 02D .1111(c), and 15A NCAC 02D .1110(b) until such  
48 standards are readopted by the Commission as provided in Sections 4.4, 4.5, and 4.6 of this act.  
49

## 50 **AMEND RISK-BASED REMEDIATION PROVISIONS**

51           **SECTION 4.7.(a)** G.S. 130A-310.65 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 130A-310.65. Definitions.**

As used in this Part:

...

(4) "Contaminated industrial site" or "site" means any real property that meets all of the following criteria:

a. The property is contaminated and may be subject to remediation under any of the programs or requirements set out in G.S. 130A-310.67(a).

b. The property is or has been used primarily for manufacturing or other industrial activities for the production of a commercial product. This includes a property used primarily for the generation of electricity.

~~c. No contaminant associated with activities at the property is located off of the property at the time the remedial action plan is submitted.~~

d. No contaminant associated with activities at the property will migrate to any adjacent properties above unrestricted use standards for the ~~contaminant~~ contaminant, after the industrial site has been remediated pursuant to the requirements of this Part.

...

(8) "Registered environmental consultant" means an environmental consulting or engineering firm approved to implement and oversee voluntary remedial actions pursuant to Part 3 of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes and rules adopted to implement the Part.

...."

**SECTION 4.7.(b)** G.S. 130A-310.67 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 130A-310.67. Applicability.**

(a) This Part applies to contaminated industrial sites subject to remediation pursuant to any of the following programs or requirements:

(1) The Inactive Hazardous Sites Response Act of 1987 under Part 3 of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes, including voluntary actions under G.S. 130A-310.9 of that act, and rules promulgated pursuant to those statutes.

(2) The hazardous waste management program administered by the State pursuant to the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, Public Law 94-580, 90 Stat. 2795, 42 U.S.C. § 6901, et seq., as amended, and Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes.

(3) The solid waste management program administered pursuant to Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes.

(4) The federal Superfund program administered in part by the State pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, Public Law 96-510, 94 Stat. 2767, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, et seq., as amended, the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Public Law 99-499, 100 Stat. 1613, as amended, and under Part 4 of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes.

(5) The groundwater protection corrective action requirements adopted by the Commission pursuant to Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.

(6) Oil Pollution and Hazardous Substances Control Act of 1978, Parts 1 and 2 of Article 21A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.

(b) This Part shall not apply to contaminated industrial sites subject to remediation pursuant to any of the following programs or requirements:

- 1 (1) The Leaking Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Cleanup program under  
2 Part 2A of Article 21A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes and rules  
3 promulgated pursuant to that ~~statute~~.Part.  
4 (2) The Dry-Cleaning Solvent Cleanup program under Part 6 of Article 21A of  
5 Chapter 143 of the General Statutes and rules promulgated pursuant to that  
6 ~~statute~~.Part.  
7 (3) The pre-1983 landfill assessment and remediation program established under  
8 G.S. 130A-310.6(c) through ~~(g)~~.(g) and rules promulgated pursuant to that  
9 statute.  
10 (4) The Coal Ash Management Act of 2014 under Part 2I of Article 9 of Chapter  
11 130A of the General Statutes and rules promulgated pursuant to that Part.

12 ~~(e) This Part shall apply only to sites where a discharge, spill, or release of~~  
13 ~~contamination has been reported to the Department prior to March 1, 2011."~~

14 **SECTION 4.7.(c)** G.S. 130A-310.69(b)(11) reads as rewritten:

15 **"§ 130A-310.69. Remedial investigation report; remedial action plans.**

16 ...

17 (b) A person who proposes to conduct remediation pursuant to this Part shall develop  
18 and submit a proposed remedial action plan to the Department. A remedial action plan shall  
19 provide for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare and the environment. A remedial  
20 action plan shall do all of the following:

21 ...

- 22 (11) Provide for the imposition and recordation of land-use restrictions as  
23 provided in G.S. 143B-279.9, 143B-279.10, 130A-310.3(f), 130A-310.8,  
24 130A-310.35, 143-215.84(f), and 143-215.85A if the remedial action plan  
25 allows contamination in excess of the greater of unrestricted use standards or  
26 background standards to remain on any real property or in groundwater that  
27 underlies any real ~~property~~.property on the industrial site."

28 **SECTION 4.7.(d)** G.S. 130A-310.71 reads as rewritten:

29 **"§ 130A-310.71. Review and approval of proposed remedial action plans.**

30 (a) The Department shall review and approve a proposed remedial action plan  
31 consistent with the remediation standards set out in G.S. 130A-310.68 and the procedures set  
32 out in this section. In its review of a proposed remedial action plan, the Department shall do all  
33 of the following:

34 ...

- 35 (2) Determine whether the party conducting the remediation has adequately  
36 demonstrated through modeling or other scientific means acceptable to the  
37 Department that no contamination will migrate to adjacent property at levels  
38 above unrestricted use ~~standards~~.standards after the industrial site has been  
39 remediated pursuant to the plan.  
40 (3) Determine whether the proposed remedial action plan meets the  
41 requirements of G.S. 130A-310.69.  
42 (4) Determine whether the proposed remedial action plan meets the  
43 requirements of any other applicable remediation program except those  
44 pertaining to remediation standards.  
45 (5) Establish the acceptable level or range of levels of risk to public health,  
46 safety, and welfare and to the environment.  
47 (6) Establish, for each contaminant, the maximum allowable quantity,  
48 concentration, range, or other measures of contamination that will remain at  
49 the contaminated site at the conclusion of the contaminant-reduction phase  
50 of the remediation.

- 1 (7) Consider the technical performance, effectiveness, and reliability of the  
2 proposed remedial action plan in attaining and maintaining compliance with  
3 applicable remediation standards.
- 4 (8) Consider the ability of the person who proposes to remediate the site to  
5 implement the proposed remedial action plan within a reasonable time and  
6 without jeopardizing public health, safety, or welfare or the environment.
- 7 (9) Determine whether the proposed remedial action plan adequately provides  
8 for the imposition and maintenance of engineering and institutional controls  
9 and for sampling, monitoring, and reporting requirements necessary to  
10 protect public health, safety, and welfare and the environment.
- 11 (10) Approve the circumstances under which no further remediation is required.
- 12 (11) For industrial sites proceeding with remediation under this Part at which  
13 contaminants associated with activities of the industrial site have migrated to  
14 any adjacent properties, determine whether the proposed remedial action  
15 plan adequately provides for remediation of environmental contamination on  
16 the adjacent properties to unrestricted use standards.

17 (b) The person who proposes a remedial action plan has the burden of demonstrating  
18 with reasonable assurance that (i) any contamination associated with activities of the industrial  
19 site that has migrated to adjacent properties will be remediated to unrestricted use standards on  
20 the adjacent properties; (ii) contamination from the site will not migrate to adjacent property  
21 above unrestricted use levels and standards after the industrial site has been remediated pursuant  
22 to the remedial action plan; and (iii) that the remedial action plan is protective of public health,  
23 safety, and welfare and the environment by virtue of its compliance with this Part. The  
24 demonstration shall (i) take into account actions proposed in the remedial action plan that will  
25 prevent contamination from migrating off the site; and (ii) use scientifically valid site-specific  
26 data.

27 (c) The Department may require a person who proposes a remedial action plan to  
28 supply any additional information necessary for the Department to approve or disapprove the  
29 plan.

30 (d) In making a determination on a proposed remedial action plan, the Department shall  
31 consider the information provided by the person who proposes the remedial action plan as well  
32 as information provided by local governments and adjoining landowners pursuant to  
33 G.S. 130A-310.70. The Department shall disapprove a proposed remedial action plan unless the  
34 Department finds that the plan is protective of public health, safety, and welfare and the  
35 environment and complies with the requirements of this Part. If the Department disapproves a  
36 proposed remedial action plan, the person who submitted the plan may seek review as provided  
37 in Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. If the Department fails to approve or  
38 disapprove a proposed remedial action plan within 120 days after a complete plan has been  
39 submitted, the person who submitted the plan may treat the plan as having been disapproved at  
40 the end of that time period."

41 **SECTION 4.7.(e)** Part 8 of Article 9 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is  
42 amended by adding a new section to read:

43 **"§ 130A-310.68A. Remediation to unrestricted use standards required for contamination**  
44 **on adjacent properties.**

45 Notwithstanding any other provision of this Part, for industrial sites proceeding with  
46 remediation under this Part at which contaminants associated with activities of the industrial  
47 site have migrated to any adjacent properties, remediation of environmental contamination on  
48 the adjacent properties shall meet unrestricted use standards on those properties."

49 **SECTION 4.8.(a)** No later than January 1, 2016, the Department of Environment  
50 and Natural Resources shall do all of the following:



- 1 (1) Develop internal processes to govern remediation of contaminated industrial  
2 sites conducted under this Part that are consistent across all programs or  
3 requirements identified in subsection (a) of G.S. 130A-310.67.
- 4 (2) Develop a coordinated program and processes for remediation of  
5 contaminated industrial sites conducted under this Part that are subject to  
6 more than one program or requirement identified in subsection (a) of  
7 G.S. 130A-310.67.
- 8 (3) Develop reforms to expand the role, and otherwise enhance the use of,  
9 registered environmental consultants approved to implement and oversee  
10 voluntary remedial actions pursuant to this Part.

11 **SECTION 4.8.(b)** No later than April 1, 2016, the Department shall report to the  
12 Environmental Review Commission on its activities conducted pursuant to subsection (a) of  
13 this section, together with any pertinent findings or recommendations, including any legislative  
14 proposals that it deems advisable.

15  
16 **AMEND THE LAW GOVERNING BROWNFIELDS REDEVELOPMENT TO**  
17 **EXTEND ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE PROGRAM TO BONA FIDE PROSPECTIVE**  
18 **PURCHASERS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW**

19 **SECTION 4.9.(a)** G.S. 130A-310.31(b)(10) reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 130A-310.31. Definitions.**

21 (a) Unless a different meaning is required by the context or unless a different meaning  
22 is set out in subsection (b) of this section, the definitions in G.S. 130A-2 and G.S. 130A-310  
23 apply throughout this Part.

24 (b) Unless a different meaning is required by the context:

- 25 ...
- 26 (10) "~~Prospective developer~~" ~~means any person with a bona fide, demonstrable~~  
27 ~~desire to either buy or sell a brownfields property for the purpose of~~  
28 ~~developing or redeveloping that brownfields property and who did not cause~~  
29 ~~or contribute to the contamination at the brownfields property.~~ "bona  
30 fide prospective purchasers," "contiguous property owners," and "innocent  
31 landowners," as those terms are defined under the Small Business Liability  
32 Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act (Pub. L. No. 107-118, 115 stat.  
33 2356), 42 U.S.C. § 9601."

34 **SECTION 4.9.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2015, and applies to  
35 Notices of Intent to Redevelop a Brownfields Property filed on or after that date.

36  
37 **ELIMINATE OUTDATED FEES RELATED TO SOLID WASTE MATTERS**

38 **SECTION 4.10.(a)** G.S. 105-102.6 is repealed.

39 **SECTION 4.10.(b)** G.S. 130A-309.17(d) and (i) are repealed.

40  
41 **REPEAL ENERGY AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

42 **SECTION 4.11.** G.S. 143-64.12 reads as rewritten:

43 **"§ 143-64.12. Authority and duties of the Department; State agencies and State**  
44 **institutions of higher learning.**

45 (a) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources through the State Energy  
46 Office shall develop a comprehensive program to manage energy, water, and other utility use  
47 for State agencies and State institutions of higher learning and shall update this program  
48 annually. Each State agency and State institution of higher learning shall develop and  
49 implement a management plan that is consistent with the State's comprehensive program under  
50 this subsection to manage energy, water, and other utility use, and that addresses any findings  
51 or recommendations resulting from the energy audit required by subsection (b1) of this section.

1 The energy consumption per gross square foot for all State buildings in total shall be reduced  
2 by twenty percent (20%) by 2010 and thirty percent (30%) by 2015 based on energy  
3 consumption for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Each State agency and State institution of higher  
4 learning shall update its management plan biennially and include strategies for supporting the  
5 energy consumption reduction requirements under this subsection. Each community college  
6 shall submit to the State Energy Office a biennial written report of utility consumption and  
7 costs. Management plans submitted biennially by State institutions of higher learning shall  
8 include all of the following:

- 9 (1) Estimates of all costs associated with implementing energy conservation  
10 measures, including pre-installation and post-installation costs.
- 11 (2) The cost of analyzing the projected energy savings.
- 12 (3) Design costs, engineering costs, pre-installation costs, post-installation costs,  
13 debt service, and any costs for converting to an alternative energy source.
- 14 (4) An analysis that identifies projected annual energy savings and estimated  
15 payback periods.

16 (a1) State agencies and State institutions of higher learning shall carry out the  
17 construction and renovation of facilities in such a manner as to further the policy set forth under  
18 this section and to ensure the use of life-cycle cost analyses and practices to conserve energy,  
19 water, and other utilities.

20 (b) The Department of Administration shall develop and implement policies,  
21 procedures, and standards to ensure that State purchasing practices improve efficiency  
22 regarding energy, water, and other utility use and take the cost of the product over the  
23 economic life of the product into consideration. The Department of Administration shall adopt  
24 and implement Building Energy Design Guidelines. These guidelines shall include energy-use  
25 goals and standards, economic assumptions for life-cycle cost analysis, and other criteria on  
26 building systems and technologies. The Department of Administration shall modify the design  
27 criteria for construction and renovation of facilities of State buildings and State institutions of  
28 higher learning buildings to require that a life-cycle cost analysis be conducted pursuant to  
29 G.S. 143-64.15.

30 (b1) The Department of Administration, as part of the Facilities Condition and  
31 Assessment Program, shall identify and recommend energy conservation maintenance and  
32 operating procedures that are designed to reduce energy consumption within the facility of a  
33 State agency or a State institution of higher learning and that require no significant expenditure  
34 of funds. Every State agency or State institution of higher learning shall implement these  
35 recommendations. Where energy management equipment is proposed for any facility of a State  
36 agency or of a State institution of higher learning, the maximum interchangeability and  
37 compatibility of equipment components shall be required. ~~As part of the Facilities Condition  
38 and Assessment Program under this section, the Department of Administration, in consultation  
39 with the State Energy Office, shall develop an energy audit and a procedure for conducting  
40 energy audits. Every five years the Department shall conduct an energy audit for each State  
41 agency or State institution of higher learning, and the energy audits conducted shall serve as a  
42 preliminary energy survey. The State Energy Office shall be responsible for system level  
43 detailed surveys.~~

44 ~~(b2) The Department of Administration shall submit a report of the energy audit required  
45 by subsection (b1) of this section to the affected State agency or State institution of higher  
46 learning and to the State Energy Office. The State Energy Office shall review each audit and, in  
47 consultation with the affected State agency or State institution of higher learning, incorporate  
48 the audit findings and recommendations into the management plan required by subsection (a)  
49 of this section.~~

50 ...

1 (j) The State Energy Office shall submit a report by December 1 of every  
2 odd-numbered year to the Joint Legislative Energy Policy Commission describing the  
3 comprehensive program to manage energy, water, and other utility use for State agencies and  
4 State institutions of higher learning required by subsection (a) of this section. The report shall  
5 also contain the following:

- 6 (1) A comprehensive overview of how State agencies and State institutions of  
7 higher learning are managing energy, water, and other utility use and  
8 achieving efficiency gains.
- 9 (2) Any new measures that could be taken by State agencies and State  
10 institutions of higher learning to achieve greater efficiency gains, including  
11 any changes in general law that might be needed.
- 12 (3) A summary of the State agency and State institutions of higher learning  
13 management plans required by subsection (a) of this ~~section and the energy~~  
14 ~~audits required by subsection (b1) of this section.~~
- 15 (4) A list of the State agencies and State institutions of higher learning that did  
16 and did not submit management plans required by subsection (a) of this  
17 ~~section and a list of the State agencies and State institutions of higher~~  
18 ~~learning that received an energy audit.~~section.
- 19 (5) Any recommendations on how management plans can be better managed  
20 and implemented."

## 21 22 **DELETE OR REPEAL VARIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES** 23 **REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

24 **SECTION 4.12.(a)** G.S. 113-175.6 is repealed.

25 **SECTION 4.12.(b)** G.S. 113-182.1(e) reads as rewritten:

### 26 **"§ 113-182.1. Fishery Management Plans.**

27 ...

28 (e) The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall monitor progress in the  
29 development and adoption of Fishery Management Plans in relation to the Schedule for  
30 development and adoption of the plans established by the Marine Fisheries Commission. ~~The~~  
31 ~~Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall report to the Joint Legislative~~  
32 ~~Commission on Governmental Operations on progress in developing and implementing the~~  
33 ~~Fishery Management Plans on or before 1 September of each year.~~The Secretary of  
34 Environment and Natural Resources shall report to the Joint Legislative Commission on  
35 Governmental Operations within 30 days of the completion or substantial revision of each  
36 proposed Fishery Management Plan. The Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental  
37 Operations shall review each proposed Fishery Management Plan within 30 days of the date the  
38 proposed Plan is submitted by the Secretary. The Joint Legislative Commission on  
39 Governmental Operations may submit comments and recommendations on the proposed Plan  
40 to the Secretary within 30 days of the date the proposed Plan is submitted by the Secretary."

41 **SECTION 4.12.(c)** G.S. 143B-279.15 is repealed.

42 **SECTION 4.12.(d)** G.S. 143B-289.44(d) is repealed.

43 **SECTION 4.12.(e)** G.S. 159I-29 is repealed.

44 **SECTION 4.12.(f)** Section 2.3 of S.L. 2007-485 is repealed.

## 45 46 **ON-SITE WASTEWATER AMENDMENTS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

47 **SECTION 4.14.(a)** G.S. 130A-334 reads as rewritten:

### 48 **"§ 130A-334. Definitions.**

49 The following definitions shall apply throughout this Article:

- 50 (1) "Accepted wastewater system" has the same meaning as in G.S. 130A-343.

- 1           ~~(1)~~(1a) "Construction" means any work at the site of placement done for the purpose  
2           of preparing a residence, place of business or place of public assembly for  
3           initial occupancy, or subsequent additions or modifications which increase  
4           sewage flow.
- 5           (1b) "Conventional wastewater system" has the same meaning as in  
6           G.S. 130A-343.
- 7           ~~(1a)~~(1c) "Department" means the Department of Health and Human Services.
- 8           ~~(1b)~~(1d) "Ground absorption system" means a system of tanks, treatment units,  
9           nitrification fields, and appurtenances for wastewater collection, treatment,  
10          and subsurface disposal.
- 11          (2) Repealed by Session Laws 1985, c. 462, s. 18.
- 12          (2a) "Industrial process wastewater" means any water-carried waste resulting  
13          from any process of industry, manufacture, trade, or business.
- 14          (2b) "Licensed soil scientist" has the same meaning as in G.S. 89F-3.
- 15          (3) "Location" means the initial placement for occupancy of a residence, place  
16          of business or place of public assembly.
- 17          (3a) "Maintenance" means normal or routine maintenance including replacement  
18          of broken pipes, cleaning, or adjustment to an existing wastewater system.
- 19          (4), (5) Repealed by Session Laws 1985, c. 462, s. 18.
- 20          (6) "Place of business" means a store, warehouse, manufacturing establishment,  
21          place of amusement or recreation, service station, office building or any  
22          other place where people work.
- 23          (7) "Place of public assembly" means a fairground, auditorium, stadium, church,  
24          campground, theater or any other place where people assemble.
- 25          (7a) "Plat" means a property survey prepared by a registered land surveyor,  
26          drawn to a scale of one inch equals no more than 60 feet, that includes: the  
27          specific location of the proposed facility and appurtenances, the site for the  
28          proposed wastewater system, and the location of water supplies and surface  
29          waters. "Plat" also means, for subdivision lots approved by the local  
30          planning authority if a local planning authority exists at the time of  
31          application for a permit under this Article, a copy of the subdivision plat that  
32          has been recorded with the county register of deeds and is accompanied by a  
33          site plan that is drawn to scale.
- 34          (7b) "Pretreatment" means any biological, chemical, or physical process or  
35          system for improving wastewater quality and reducing wastewater  
36          constituents prior to final treatment and disposal in a subsurface wastewater  
37          system and includes, but is not limited to aeration, clarification, digestion,  
38          disinfection, filtration, separation, and settling.
- 39          (7c) "Private option permit" means approval of an on-site wastewater system by a  
40          professional engineer who has both expertise and education in civil or  
41          environmental engineering and who has designed the wastewater system  
42          acting under the authority of the owner thereof.
- 43          (7d) "Professional engineer" has the same meaning as in G.S. 89C-3.
- 44          (8) "Public or community wastewater system" means a single system of  
45          wastewater collection, treatment and disposal owned and operated by a  
46          sanitary district, a metropolitan sewage district, a water and sewer authority,  
47          a county or municipality or a public utility.
- 48          (9) "Relocation" means the displacement of a residence or place of business  
49          from one site to another.
- 50          (9a) "Repair" means the extension, alteration, replacement, or relocation of  
51          existing components of a wastewater system.

- 1 (10) "Residence" means a private home, dwelling unit in a multiple family  
2 structure, hotel, motel, summer camp, labor work camp, manufactured  
3 home, institution or any other place where people reside.
- 4 (10a) "Secretary" means the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources.
- 5 (11) Repealed by Session Laws 1992, c. 944, s. 3.
- 6 (12) "Septic tank system" means a subsurface wastewater system consisting of a  
7 settling tank and a subsurface disposal field.
- 8 (13) "Sewage" means the liquid and solid human body waste and liquid waste  
9 generated by water-using fixtures and appliances, including those associated  
10 with foodhandling. The term does not include industrial process wastewater  
11 or sewage that is combined with industrial process wastewater.
- 12 (13a) "Site plan" means a drawing not necessarily drawn to scale that shows the  
13 existing and proposed property lines with dimensions, the location of the  
14 facility and appurtenances, the site for the proposed wastewater system, and  
15 the location of water supplies and surface waters.
- 16 (14) "Wastewater" means any sewage or industrial process wastewater  
17 discharged, transmitted, or collected from a residence, place of business,  
18 place of public assembly, or other places into a wastewater system.
- 19 (15) "Wastewater system" means a system of wastewater collection, treatment,  
20 and disposal in single or multiple components, including a ground  
21 absorption system, privy, septic tank system, public or community  
22 wastewater system, wastewater reuse or recycle system, mechanical or  
23 biological wastewater treatment system, any other similar system, and any  
24 chemical toilet used only for human waste. A wastewater system located on  
25 multiple adjoining lots or tracts of land under common ownership or control  
26 shall be considered a single system for purposes of permitting under this  
27 Article."

28 **SECTION 4.14.(b)** G.S. 130A-335 reads as rewritten:

29 **"§ 130A-335. Wastewater collection, treatment and disposal; rules.**

30 (a) A person owning or controlling a residence, place of business or a place of public  
31 assembly shall provide an approved wastewater system. Except as may be allowed under  
32 another provision of law, all wastewater from water-using fixtures and appliances connected to  
33 a water supply source shall discharge to the approved wastewater system. A wastewater system  
34 may include components for collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater.

35 (a1) Any proposed site for a residence, place of business, or a place of public assembly  
36 located in an area that is not served by an approved wastewater system for which a new  
37 wastewater system is proposed may be evaluated for soil conditions and site features by a  
38 licensed soil scientist. For purposes of this subsection, "site features" include topography and  
39 landscape position; soil characteristics (morphology); soil wetness; soil depth; restrictive  
40 horizons; available space; and other applicable factors that involve accepted public health  
41 principles.

42 (b) All wastewater systems shall either (i) be regulated by the Department under rules  
43 adopted by the Commission or (ii) conform with the private option permit criteria set forth in  
44 G.S. 130A-336.1 and under rules adopted by the Commission except for the following  
45 wastewater systems that shall be regulated by the Department under rules adopted by the  
46 Environmental Management Commission:

- 47 (1) Wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal systems designed to  
48 discharge effluent to the land surface or surface waters.
- 49 (2) Wastewater systems designed for groundwater remediation, groundwater  
50 injection, or landfill leachate collection and disposal.

- 1 (3) Wastewater systems designed for the complete recycle or reuse of industrial  
2 process wastewater.
- 3 (4) Gray water systems as defined in G.S. 143-350.
- 4 (c) A wastewater system subject to approval under rules of the Commission shall be  
5 reviewed and approved under rules of a local board of health in the following circumstances:
- 6 (1) The local board of health, on its own motion, has requested the Department  
7 to review its proposed rules concerning wastewater systems; and
- 8 (2) The local board of health has adopted by reference the wastewater system  
9 rules adopted by the Commission, with any more stringent modifications or  
10 additions deemed necessary by the local board of health to protect the public  
11 health; and
- 12 (3) The Department has found that the rules of the local board of health  
13 concerning wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems are at least  
14 as stringent as rules adopted by the Commission and are sufficient and  
15 necessary to safeguard the public health.

16 (c1) The rules adopted by the Commission for wastewater systems approved under the  
17 private option permit criteria pursuant to G.S. 130A-336.1 shall be, at a minimum, as stringent  
18 as the rules for wastewater systems established by the Commission.

19 (d) The Department may, upon its own motion, upon the request of a local board of  
20 health or upon the request of a citizen of an affected county, review its findings under  
21 subsection (c) of this section.

22 The Department shall review its findings under subsection (c) of this section upon  
23 modification by the Commission of the rules applicable to wastewater systems. The  
24 Department may deny, suspend, or revoke the approval of local board of health wastewater  
25 system rules upon a finding that the local wastewater rules are not as stringent as rules adopted  
26 by the Commission, are not sufficient and necessary to safeguard the public health, or are not  
27 being enforced. Suspension and revocation of approval shall be in accordance with  
28 G.S. 130A-23.

29 (d1) The Department or owner of a wastewater system may file a written complaint with  
30 the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors in accordance with rules  
31 and procedures adopted by the Board pursuant to Chapter 89C of the General Statutes citing  
32 failure of a professional engineer to adhere to the rules adopted by the Commission pursuant to  
33 this Article. The Department or owner of a wastewater system may file a written complaint  
34 with the North Carolina Board of Licensed Soil Scientists in accordance with rules and  
35 procedures adopted by the Board pursuant to Chapter 89F of the General Statutes citing failure  
36 of a licensed soil scientist to adhere to the rules adopted by the Commission pursuant to this  
37 Article.

38 ...."

39 **SECTION 4.14.(c)** Article 11 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended  
40 by adding a new section to read:

41 **"§ 130A-336.1. Alternative process for wastewater system approvals.**

42 (a) Private Option Permit Authorized. – A professional engineer may, under the legal  
43 authority of the owner of a proposed wastewater system who wishes to utilize the private  
44 option permit, prepare drawings, specifications, plans, and reports that are certified and  
45 stamped with the professional engineer's seal for the design, construction, operation, and  
46 maintenance of the wastewater system in accordance with this section and rules adopted  
47 thereunder.

48 (b) Notice of Intent to Construct. – Prior to commencing or assisting in the  
49 construction, siting, or relocation of a wastewater system, the owner of a proposed wastewater  
50 system who wishes to utilize the private option permit, or a professional engineer authorized as  
51 the legal representative of the owner, shall submit to the local health department with

1 jurisdiction over the location of the proposed wastewater system a notice of intent to construct  
2 a wastewater system utilizing the private permit option. The Department shall develop a  
3 common form for use as the notice of intent to construct that includes all of the following:

- 4 (1) The owner's name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number.
- 5 (2) The professional engineer's name, address, e-mail address, and telephone  
6 number.
- 7 (3) Certified copy of the wastewater system owner's contract with the  
8 professional engineer.
- 9 (4) For both the professional engineer and the licensed soil scientist, proof of  
10 errors and omissions insurance coverage or other appropriate liability  
11 insurance that has policy limits of not less than one million dollars  
12 (\$1,000,000) per claim and that shall remain in force as applicable:
  - 13 a. Two years following the date on which a professional engineer  
14 delivers an engineering report pursuant to subdivision (k)(1) of this  
15 section to the owner of the wastewater system; or
  - 16 b. Two years following the date on which a licensed soil scientist  
17 delivers a soils report to the owner of the wastewater system.
- 18 (5) A description of the facility the proposed site is to serve and any factors that  
19 would affect the wastewater load.
- 20 (6) The type of proposed wastewater system and its location.
- 21 (7) The design wastewater flow and characteristics.
- 22 (8) Any proposed landscape, site, drainage, or soil modifications.
- 23 (9) A soil evaluation that is conducted and signed and sealed by a licensed soil  
24 scientist.
- 25 (10) A plat, as defined in G.S. 130A-334(7a).

26 (c) Completeness Review for Notice of Intent to Construct. – The local health  
27 department shall determine whether a notice of intent to construct, as required pursuant  
28 subsection (b) of this section, is complete within 14 days after the local health department  
29 receives the notice of intent to construct. A determination of completeness means that the  
30 notice of intent to construct includes all of the required components. If the local health  
31 department determines that the notice of intent to construct is not complete, the department  
32 shall notify the owner or the professional engineer of the components needed to complete the  
33 notice. The owner or professional engineer may submit additional information to the  
34 department to cure the deficiencies in the notice. The local health department shall make a final  
35 determination as to whether the notice of intent to construct is complete within 10 days after the  
36 department receives the additional information from the owner or professional engineer. If the  
37 department fails to act within any time period set out in this subsection, the owner or  
38 professional engineer may treat the failure to act as a denial of the completeness of the notice of  
39 intent and may challenge the denial as provided in Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.

40 (d) Submission of Notice of Intent to Construct to Department for Certain Systems. –  
41 Prior to commencing in the construction, siting, or relocation of a wastewater system designed  
42 (i) for the collection, treatment, and disposal of industrial process wastewater or (ii) to treat  
43 greater than 3,000 gallons per day, the owner of a proposed wastewater system who wishes to  
44 utilize the private option permit, or a professional engineer authorized as the legal  
45 representative of the owner, shall provide to the Department a duplicate copy of the notice of  
46 intent to construct submitted to the local health department required pursuant to subsection (b)  
47 of this section.

48 (e) Site Design, Construction, and Activities. –

- 49 (1) The professional engineer designing the proposed wastewater system shall  
50 use recognized principles and practices of engineering and applicable rules  
51 of the Commission in the calculations and design of the wastewater system.

1           The investigations and findings of the professional engineer shall include, at  
2           a minimum, the information required in rules adopted by the Commission  
3           pursuant to G.S. 130A-335(e). The professional engineer may, at the  
4           engineer's discretion, employ wastewater system technologies not yet  
5           approved in this State.

6           (2)   Notwithstanding G.S. 130A-335(a1), the owner of the proposed wastewater  
7           system shall employ a licensed soil scientist to evaluate soil conditions and  
8           site features.

9           (3)   The professional engineer designing the proposed wastewater system shall  
10          be responsible and accountable for all aspects of the construction and  
11          installation of the wastewater system, including the selection and oversight  
12          of an on-site wastewater system contractor certified pursuant to Article 5 of  
13          Chapter 90A of the General Statutes.

14          (4)   In addition to the requirements of this section, the owner and professional  
15          engineer designing the proposed wastewater system shall comply with all  
16          other applicable federal, State, and local laws, regulations, rules, and  
17          ordinances.

18          (f)   Liability. – The licensed soil scientist evaluating the soils at the site of the proposed  
19          wastewater system shall assume all liability for the findings of the soil scientist's initial soil  
20          evaluation and final soils report. The professional engineer designing the proposed wastewater  
21          system shall assume all liability for the engineer's scope of work in the design, calculation,  
22          construction and installation, and requirements for the development of the operation and  
23          management plan for the wastewater system. The owner of the wastewater system shall assume  
24          all liability for the proper operation and management of the wastewater system. The  
25          Department, the Department's authorized agents, or local health departments shall have no  
26          liability for wastewater systems approved under a private option permit. After the owner of the  
27          wastewater system has commenced operation of the system pursuant to subsection (m) of this  
28          section, neither the professional engineer nor the licensed soil scientist shall be held liable for  
29          any damages that result from any unapproved changes made to the wastewater system by the  
30          owner.

31          (g)   Inspections. – The local health department may, at any time, conduct a site visit of  
32          the wastewater system.

33          (h)   Local Authority. – This section shall not relieve the owner or operator of a  
34          wastewater system from complying with any and all modifications or additions to rules adopted  
35          by the local health department to protect public health pursuant to G.S. 130A-335(c). The local  
36          health department shall notify the owner or operator of the wastewater system of any issues of  
37          compliance related to such modifications or additions.

38          (i)   Operations and Management. –

39               (1)   The professional engineer designing the wastewater system shall establish a  
40               written operations and management program based on the size and  
41               complexity of the wastewater system and shall provide the owner with the  
42               operations and management program.

43               (2)   The professional engineer shall assist the owner in the owner's selection of a  
44               water pollution control system operator. The owner shall enter into a  
45               contract with a water pollution control system operator certified pursuant to  
46               Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 90A of the General Statutes and who is  
47               selected from the list of certified operators maintained by the Division of  
48               Water Resources in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
49               for operation and maintenance of the system in accordance with rules  
50               adopted by the Commission.



1           (3)    Any person who owns or controls the property upon which the wastewater  
2           system is located shall be responsible for the continued adherence to the  
3           operations and management program established by the professional  
4           engineer developed pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection.

5           (j)    Postconstruction Conference. – The professional engineer designing the wastewater  
6           system shall hold a postconstruction conference with the owner of the wastewater system; the  
7           licensed soil scientist who performed the soils evaluation for the wastewater system; the  
8           contractor, certified pursuant to Article 5 of Chapter 90A of the General Statutes, who installed  
9           the wastewater system; the certified operator of the wastewater system, if any; and  
10          representatives from the local health department and, as applicable, the Department. The  
11          postconstruction conference shall include start-up of the wastewater system and any required  
12          verification of system design or system components.

13          (k)    Required Documentation. –

14           (1)    At the completion of the postconstruction conference conducted pursuant to  
15           subsection (j) of this section, the professional engineer who designed the  
16           wastewater system shall deliver to the owner signed, sealed, and dated  
17           certified copies of the engineer's report, which, for purposes of this section,  
18           shall include (i) the evaluation of soil conditions and site features as  
19           prepared by the licensed soil scientist; (ii) design and construction  
20           specifications; (iii) operator's management program manual that includes a  
21           copy of the contract entered into with the certified water pollution control  
22           system operator required pursuant to subsection (i) of this section; and (iv)  
23           any reports and findings related to the design and installation of the  
24           wastewater system.

25           (2)    Upon reviewing the authorized professional engineer's report, the owner of  
26           the wastewater system shall sign and notarize the report as having been  
27           received.

28          (l)    Reporting Requirements. –

29           (1)    The owner of the wastewater system shall deliver to the local health  
30           department (i) a certified copy of the authorized professional engineer's  
31           report, (ii) a copy of the operations and management program, (iii) the fee  
32           required pursuant to subsection (n) of this section, and (iv) a notarized letter  
33           that documents the owner's acceptance of the system from the professional  
34           engineer.

35           (2)    The owner of any wastewater system subject to subsection (d) of this section  
36           shall deliver to the Department certified copies of the engineer's report, as  
37           described in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

38          (m)    Authorization to Operate. – Upon receipt of the documents and fees required  
39           pursuant to subdivision (1) of subsection (l) of this section, the local health department shall  
40           issue the owner a letter of confirmation that states the documents and information contained  
41           therein have been received and that the wastewater system may operate in accordance with  
42           rules adopted by the Commission.

43          (n)    Fees. – The local health department may assess a fee of up to ten percent (10%) of  
44           the fees established to obtain an improvement permit, an authorization to construct, or an  
45           operations permit within the health department's on-site wastewater program. Fees shall be  
46           used by the local health department to conduct site inspections, to support the department's staff  
47           participation at postconstruction conference meetings, and to archive the private permit with  
48           the county register of deeds or other recordation of the wastewater system as required.

49          (o)    Change in System Ownership. – A wastewater system authorized pursuant to this  
50           section shall not be affected by change in ownership of the site for the wastewater system,  
51           provided both the site for the wastewater system and the facility the system serves are

1 unchanged and remain under the ownership or control of the person currently owning the  
2 wastewater system.

3 (p) Rule Making. – The Commission shall adopt rules to implement to the provisions of  
4 this section.

5 (q) Reports. – The Department shall report to the Environmental Review Commission  
6 and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before  
7 January 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, on the implementation and effectiveness of this  
8 section. For the report due on or before January 1, 2017, the Department shall specifically  
9 evaluate whether (i) the private option permit resulted in a reduction in the length of time  
10 improvement permits or authorizations to construct are pending; (ii) the private option permit  
11 resulted in increased system failures or other adverse impacts; and (iii) the private option  
12 permit resulted in new or increased environmental impacts. The Department may include  
13 recommendations, including any legislative proposals, in its reports to the Commission and  
14 Committee."

15 **SECTION 4.14.(d)** G.S. 130A-338 reads as rewritten:

16 **"§ 130A-338. Authorization for wastewater system construction required before other**  
17 **permits to be issued.**

18 Where construction, location or relocation is proposed to be done upon a residence, place of  
19 business or place of public assembly, no permit required for electrical, plumbing, heating, air  
20 conditioning or other construction, location or relocation activity under any provision of  
21 general or special law shall be issued until an authorization for wastewater system construction  
22 has been issued under ~~G.S. 130A-336~~G.S. 130A-336, or authorization has been obtained under  
23 ~~G.S. 130A-337(e)~~G.S. 130A-337(c), or a decision on the completeness of the notice of intent  
24 to construct is made by the local health department pursuant to G.S. 130A-336.1(c)."

25 **SECTION 4.14.(e)** G.S. 130A-339 reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 130A-339. Limitation on electrical service.**

27 No person shall allow permanent electrical service to a residence, place of business or place  
28 of public assembly upon construction, location or relocation until the official electrical  
29 inspector with jurisdiction as provided in G.S. 143-143.2 certifies to the electrical supplier that  
30 the required improvement permit authorization for wastewater system construction and an  
31 operation permit or authorization under G.S. 130A-337(c) or the decision on the completeness  
32 of the notice of intent to construct made by the local health department pursuant to  
33 G.S. 130A-336.1(b1) has been obtained. Temporary electrical service necessary for  
34 constructing a residence, place of business or place of public assembly can be provided upon  
35 compliance with G.S. 130A-338."

36 **SECTION 4.14.(f)** The Commission for Public Health, in consultation with the  
37 Department of Health and Human Services, local health departments, and stakeholders  
38 representing the wastewater system industry, shall study the minimum on-site wastewater  
39 system inspection frequency established pursuant to Table V(a) in 15A NCAC 18A .1961 to  
40 evaluate the feasibility and desirability of eliminating duplicative inspections of on-site  
41 wastewater systems. In the conduct of its study, the Commission shall consider (i) the  
42 compliance history of wastewater systems, including whether operators' reports and laboratory  
43 reports are in compliance with Article 11 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes and the rules  
44 adopted pursuant to that Article; (ii) alternative inspection frequencies, including the use of  
45 remote Web-based monitoring for alarm and compliance notification; (iii) whether the required  
46 verification visit conducted by local health departments shows a statistically significant  
47 justification for duplicative costs to the owner of the wastewater system; (iv) methods for  
48 notifications of changes to and expirations of operations contracts; and (v) methods for local  
49 health departments to provide certified operator management for sites that are not under  
50 contract with a water pollution control system operator certified pursuant to Part 1 of Article 3  
51 of Chapter 90A of the General Statutes. The Commission shall report its findings and

1 recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the Environmental Review  
2 Commission and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on  
3 or before January 1, 2016.

4 **SECTION 4.14.(g)** G.S. 130A-336 reads as rewritten:

5 **"§ 130A-336. Improvement permit and authorization for wastewater system construction**  
6 **required.**

7 (a) Any proposed site for a residence, place of business, or place of public assembly in  
8 an area not served by an approved wastewater system shall be evaluated by either (i) the local  
9 health department in accordance with rules adopted pursuant to this Article or (ii) by a  
10 professional engineer or licensed soil scientist acting within the engineer's or soil scientist's  
11 scope of work, as applicable, and pursuant to the conditions of the private option permit in  
12 G.S. 130A-336.1. An improvement permit shall be issued in compliance with the rules adopted  
13 pursuant to this Article. An improvement permit issued by a local health department shall  
14 include:

- 15 (1) ~~For permits that are valid without expiration, a plat or, for permits that are~~  
16 ~~valid for five years, A plat or a site plan.~~
- 17 (2) A description of the facility the proposed site is to serve.
- 18 (3) The proposed wastewater system and its location.
- 19 (4) The design wastewater flow and characteristics.
- 20 (5) The conditions for any site modifications.
- 21 (6) Any other information required by the rules of the Commission.

22 ~~The Neither the improvement permit nor the authorization for wastewater system construction~~  
23 ~~shall not be affected by change in ownership of the site for the wastewater system provided~~  
24 ~~both the site for the wastewater system and the facility the system serves are unchanged and~~  
25 ~~remain under the ownership or control of the person owning the facility. The improvement~~  
26 ~~permit and the authorization for wastewater system construction shall remain valid once issued,~~  
27 ~~without expiration, provided the design wastewater flow and characteristics and the description~~  
28 ~~of the proposed facility the wastewater system will serve remains unchanged. No person shall~~  
29 ~~commence or assist in the construction, location, or relocation of a residence, place of business,~~  
30 ~~or place of public assembly in an area not served by an approved wastewater system unless an~~  
31 ~~improvement permit and an authorization for wastewater system construction are obtained from~~  
32 ~~the local health department unless acting within the conditions and criteria of a~~  
33 ~~private option permit pursuant to G.S. 130A-336.1. This requirement shall not apply to a~~  
34 ~~manufactured residence exhibited for sale or stored for later sale and intended to be located at~~  
35 ~~another site after sale.~~

36 (b) The local health department shall issue an authorization for wastewater system  
37 construction authorizing work to proceed and the installation or repair of a wastewater system  
38 when it has determined after a field investigation that the system can be installed and operated  
39 in compliance with this Article and rules adopted pursuant to this Article. ~~This authorization for~~  
40 ~~wastewater system construction shall be valid for a period equal to the period of validity of the~~  
41 ~~improvement permit and may be issued at the same time the improvement permit is issued. No~~  
42 ~~person shall commence or assist in the installation, construction, or repair of a wastewater~~  
43 ~~system unless an improvement permit and an authorization for wastewater system construction~~  
44 ~~have been obtained from the Department or the local health department unless~~  
45 ~~acting within the conditions and criteria of a private option permit pursuant to~~  
46 ~~G.S. 130A-336.1. No improvement permit or authorization for wastewater system construction~~  
47 ~~shall be required for maintenance of a wastewater system. The Department and the local health~~  
48 ~~department may impose conditions on the issuance of an improvement permit and an~~  
49 ~~authorization for wastewater system construction.~~

50 (b1) The local health department shall maintain a database of proposed wastewater  
51 systems for which both the improvement permit and construction authorization have been

1 obtained but no commencement of activity related to the construction or installation of the  
2 wastewater system was undertaken during the five years immediately following the approval of  
3 the improvement permit and construction authorization. For those wastewater systems  
4 identified in accordance with this subsection, the local health department shall notify the  
5 applicant of alternative wastewater system technologies and options that may be employed by  
6 the applicant in lieu of the system already permitted and authorized by the department.

7 (c) Unless the Commission otherwise provides by rule, plans, and specifications for all  
8 wastewater systems designed for the collection, treatment, and disposal of industrial process  
9 wastewater shall be reviewed and approved by the Department prior to the issuance of an  
10 authorization for wastewater system construction by the local health department.

11 (d) If a local health department repeatedly fails to issue or deny improvement permits  
12 for conventional or accepted septic tank systems within ~~60 days of days~~, or within 90 days for  
13 provisional or innovative systems, after receiving completed applications for the permits, then  
14 the Department of Environment and Natural Resources may withhold public health funding  
15 from that local health department."

16 **SECTION 4.14.(h)** G.S. 130A-342 reads as rewritten:

17 **"§ 130A-342. Residential wastewater treatment systems.**

18 (a) Individual residential wastewater treatment systems that are approved and listed in  
19 accordance with the standards adopted by the National Sanitation Foundation, Inc. for Class I  
20 residential wastewater treatment systems, as set out in Standard 40 of the National Sanitation  
21 Foundation, Inc., (as approved 13 January 2001) as amended, shall be permitted under rules  
22 adopted by the Commission. The Commission may establish standards in addition to those set  
23 by the National Sanitation Foundation, Inc.

24 (b) A permitted system with a design flow of less than 1,500 gallons per day shall be  
25 operated and maintained by a certified wastewater treatment facility operator by a person who  
26 is a Subsurface Water Pollution Control System Operator as certified by the Water Pollution  
27 Control System Operators Certification Commission and authorized by the manufacturer of the  
28 individual residential wastewater treatment system. The Commission may establish additional  
29 standards for wastewater systems with a design flow of 1,500 gallons or greater per day.

30 (c) Each county, in which one or more residential wastewater treatment systems  
31 permitted pursuant to this section are in use, shall document the performance of each system  
32 and report the results to the Department annually."

33 **SECTION 4.14.(i)** This section is effective when this act becomes law, and the  
34 Commission for Public Health shall adopt or amend rules pursuant to Sections 4.14(a) through  
35 4.14(e) of this act no later than June 1, 2016. No person shall utilize the private permit option  
36 authorized pursuant to G.S. 130A-336.1, as enacted by Section 4.14(c) of this act, however,  
37 until such time as the rules adopted by the Commission pursuant to Section 4.14(c) of this act  
38 become effective.

## 40 **AMEND APPROVAL OF ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

41 **SECTION 4.15.(a)** G.S. 130A-343 reads as rewritten:

42 **"§ 130A-343. Approval of on-site subsurface wastewater systems.**

43 (a) Definitions. – As used in this section:

- 44 (1) "Accepted wastewater dispersal system" means any subsurface wastewater  
45 dispersal system, other than a conventional wastewater system, ~~or any~~  
46 ~~technology, device, or component of a wastewater system~~ that: (i) has been  
47 previously approved as an innovative wastewater dispersal system by the  
48 Department; (ii) has been in general use in this State as an innovative  
49 wastewater dispersal system for more than five years; and (iii) has been  
50 approved by the Commission for general use or use in one or more specific  
51 applications. An accepted wastewater dispersal system may be approved for

1 use in applications for which a conventional wastewater system is  
2 unsuitable. The Commission may impose any design, operation,  
3 maintenance, monitoring, and management requirements on the use of an  
4 accepted wastewater dispersal system that it determines to be appropriate.

5 (2) "~~Controlled demonstration~~Provisional wastewater system" means any  
6 wastewater system or any technology, device, or component of a wastewater  
7 system that, on the basis of (i) research acceptable research, is approved by  
8 to the Department or (ii) approval of the wastewater system by a nationally  
9 recognized certification body for a period that exceeds one year for research,  
10 testing, or trial use under actual field conditions in this State pursuant to a  
11 protocol that has been approved by the Department.

12 (3) "Conventional wastewater system", "conventional sewage system", or  
13 "conventional septic tank system" means a subsurface wastewater system  
14 that consists of a traditional septic or settling tank and a gravity-fed  
15 subsurface ~~disposal~~dispersal field that uses washed natural stone or gravel  
16 ~~or crushed stone~~of approved size and grade and piping to distribute effluent  
17 to soil in one or more nitrification trenches and that does not include any  
18 other appurtenance.

19 (4) "~~Experimental wastewater system~~" means ~~any wastewater system or any~~  
20 ~~technology, device, or component of a wastewater system that is approved~~  
21 ~~by the Department for research, testing, or limited trial use under actual field~~  
22 ~~conditions in this State pursuant to a protocol that has been approved by the~~  
23 ~~Department.~~

24 (5) "Innovative wastewater system" means any wastewater system, other than a  
25 conventional wastewater system, provisional wastewater system, or any  
26 technology, device, or component of a wastewater system that either:

27 a. ~~(i) has~~Has been demonstrated to perform in a manner equal or  
28 superior to a conventional wastewater system; ~~(ii) is~~ constructed of  
29 materials whose physical and chemical properties provide the  
30 strength, durability, and chemical resistance to allow the system to  
31 withstand loads and conditions as required by rules adopted by the  
32 Commission; and ~~(iii) has~~ been approved by the Department for  
33 general use or for one or more specific applications.

34 b. Remains on a list of the applicable nationally recognized standards  
35 for a period that exceeds two years and satisfies the treatment limits  
36 adopted by the Department.

37 An innovative wastewater system may be approved for use in applications  
38 for which a conventional wastewater system is unsuitable. The Department  
39 may impose any design, operation, maintenance, monitoring, and  
40 management requirements on the use of an innovative wastewater system  
41 that it determines to be appropriate. A wastewater system approved by a  
42 nationally recognized certification body and in compliance with the ongoing  
43 verification program of such body may submit a sampling protocol for  
44 innovative system approval that reduces the data sets required for such  
45 approval by fifty percent (50%). Such an application shall include all of the  
46 data associated with the nationally recognized certification body's  
47 verification of the system's performance.

48 (6) "Nationally recognized certification body" means NSF International; the  
49 International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials; the Bureau  
50 of Normalization of Quebec; or another certification body for wastewater

1 systems or system components accredited by the American National  
2 Standards Institute or the Standards Council of Canada.

3 (b) Adoption of Rules Governing Approvals. – The Commission shall adopt rules for  
4 the approval and permitting of experimental, controlled demonstration, innovative,  
5 conventional, provisional, and accepted wastewater systems. The rules shall address the criteria  
6 to be considered prior to issuing a permit an approval for a system, requirements for  
7 preliminary design plans and specifications that must be submitted, methodology to be used,  
8 standards for monitoring and evaluating the system, research evaluation of the system, the plan  
9 of work for monitoring system performance and maintenance, and any additional matters the  
10 Commission ~~deems appropriate~~ determines are necessary for verification of the performance of  
11 a wastewater system or system component.

12 (c) ~~Approved Systems.~~ Procedure for Modifications or Revocations. – The  
13 Department may modify, suspend, or revoke the approval of a wastewater system if the  
14 Department determines that the approval is based on false, incomplete, or misleading  
15 information or if the Department finds that modification, suspension, or revocation is necessary  
16 to protect public health, safety, or welfare. The Department shall provide a listing of all  
17 approved ~~experimental, controlled demonstration, innovative,~~ provisional, and accepted  
18 wastewater systems to the local health departments annually, and ~~more frequently, when the~~  
19 ~~Department makes a final agency decision related to the approval of a wastewater system or the~~  
20 ~~Commission adopts rules related to the~~ notify the local health departments within 30 days of  
21 any modification or revocation of an approval of a wastewater system system or system  
22 component.

23 (d) Evaluation Protocols. – The Department shall approve one or more nationally  
24 recognized protocols for the evaluation of ~~on-site subsurface~~ wastewater systems. Any protocol  
25 approved by the Department shall specify a minimum number of sites that must be evaluated  
26 and the duration of the evaluation period. At the request of a manufacturer of a wastewater  
27 system, the Department may approve an alternative protocol for use in the evaluation of the  
28 performance of the manufacturer's wastewater system. A protocol for the evaluation of ~~an~~  
29 ~~on-site subsurface~~ a wastewater system approved by the Department pursuant to this section is  
30 a scientific standard within the meaning of G.S. 150B-2(8a)h.

31 (e) ~~Experimental Systems.~~ A manufacturer of a wastewater system that is intended for  
32 ~~on-site subsurface use may apply to the Department to have the system evaluated as an~~  
33 ~~experimental wastewater system as provided in this subsection. The manufacturer shall submit~~  
34 ~~a proposal for evaluation of the system to the Department. The proposal for evaluation shall~~  
35 ~~include the design of the system, a description of any laboratory or field research or testing that~~  
36 ~~will be used to evaluate the system, a description of the research or testing protocol, and the~~  
37 ~~credentials of the independent laboratory, consultant, or other entity that will be conducting the~~  
38 ~~research or testing on the system. The proposal may include an evaluation of research and~~  
39 ~~testing conducted in other states to the extent that the research and testing involves soil types,~~  
40 ~~climate, hydrology, and other relevant conditions that are comparable to conditions in this State~~  
41 ~~and if the research or testing was conducted pursuant to a protocol acceptable to the~~  
42 ~~Department. The manufacturer shall enter into a contract for an evaluation of the performance~~  
43 ~~of the experimental wastewater system with an independent laboratory, consultant, or other~~  
44 ~~entity that has expertise in the evaluation of wastewater systems and that is approved by the~~  
45 ~~Department. The manufacturer may install up to 50 experimental systems pursuant to a~~  
46 ~~protocol approved by the Department on sites that are suitable for a conventional wastewater~~  
47 ~~system and that have a repair area of sufficient size to allow installation of a conventional~~  
48 ~~wastewater system, an approved innovative wastewater system, or an accepted wastewater~~  
49 ~~system if the experimental wastewater system fails to perform properly.~~

50 (f) ~~Controlled Demonstration Provisional Systems.~~ – A manufacturer of a wastewater  
51 system ~~intended for on-site subsurface use may apply to the Department to have the system~~

1 ~~evaluated as a controlled demonstration wastewater system as provided in this subsection.~~  
2 ~~provisionally approved for use in this State. Any wastewater system approved based on its~~  
3 ~~approval by a nationally recognized certification body must be designed and installed in a~~  
4 ~~manner consistent with the system evaluated and approved by the nationally recognized~~  
5 ~~certification body. The manufacturer shall submit a proposal for evaluation of the system to the~~  
6 ~~Department. The proposal shall contain procedures for obtaining specified information~~  
7 ~~necessary to achieve innovative status upon completion of the provisional status. The proposal~~  
8 ~~for evaluation shall include the design of the system, a description of any laboratory or field~~  
9 ~~research or testing that will be used to evaluate the system, a description of the research or~~  
10 ~~testing protocol, and the credentials of the independent laboratory, consultant, or other entity~~  
11 ~~that will be conducting the research or testing on the system. If the system was evaluated as an~~  
12 ~~experimental system under subsection (e) of this section, the proposal shall include the results~~  
13 ~~of the evaluation. The proposal may include an evaluation of research and testing conducted in~~  
14 ~~other states to the extent that the research and testing involves soil types, climate, hydrology,~~  
15 ~~and other relevant conditions that are comparable to conditions in this State and if the research~~  
16 ~~or testing was conducted pursuant to a protocol acceptable to the Department. The~~  
17 ~~manufacturer shall enter into a contract for an evaluation of the performance of the controlled~~  
18 ~~demonstration wastewater system with an independent laboratory, consultant, or other entity~~  
19 ~~that has expertise in the evaluation of wastewater systems and that is approved by the~~  
20 ~~Department. The manufacturer may install up to 200 ~~controlled demonstration~~provisional~~  
21 ~~wastewater systems pursuant to a protocol approved by the Department on sites that are~~  
22 ~~suitable for a conventional wastewater system and that have a repair area of sufficient size to~~  
23 ~~allow installation of a conventional wastewater system, an approved innovative wastewater~~  
24 ~~system, or an accepted wastewater system if the ~~controlled demonstration~~provisional~~  
25 ~~wastewater system fails to perform properly. If the ~~controlled demonstration~~provisional~~  
26 ~~wastewater system is intended for use on sites that are not suitable, or that are provisionally~~  
27 ~~suitable, suitable for a conventional wastewater system, the Department may approve the~~  
28 ~~installation of the ~~controlled demonstration~~provisional wastewater system if the Department~~  
29 ~~determines that the manufacturer can provide an acceptable alternative method for collection,~~  
30 ~~treatment, and ~~disposal~~dispersal of the wastewater. The Department shall approve applications~~  
31 ~~for provisional systems based on approval by a nationally recognized certification body within~~  
32 ~~90 days of receipt of a complete application. A manufacturer that chooses to remove its product~~  
33 ~~from the nationally recognized standard during the provisional approval may continue its~~  
34 ~~application in this State pursuant to requirements and procedures established by the~~  
35 ~~Department.~~

36 (g) Innovative Systems. – A manufacturer of a wastewater system for on-site subsurface  
37 use ~~that has been evaluated as an experimental~~may apply for and be considered for innovative  
38 system status by the Department in one of the following ways:

39 (1) ~~If the wastewater system has been approved as a provisional wastewater~~  
40 ~~system pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, the manufacturer may apply~~  
41 ~~to have the system approved as an innovative wastewater system based on~~  
42 ~~successful completion of the evaluation protocols established pursuant to~~  
43 ~~subsection (d) of this section. ~~wastewater system as provided in subsection~~~~  
44 ~~(e) of this section or that has been evaluated as a controlled demonstration~~  
45 ~~wastewater system as provided in subsection (f) of this section may apply to~~  
46 ~~the Department to have the system approved as an innovative wastewater~~  
47 ~~system as provided in this subsection.~~

48 (2) ~~A manufacturer of a~~If the wastewater system for on-site subsurface use that  
49 has not been evaluated or approved as an ~~experimental~~ provisional  
50 ~~wastewater system or as a controlled demonstration wastewater system~~  
51 ~~pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, the manufacturer may also apply to~~

1 the Department to have the system approved as an innovative wastewater  
2 system on the basis of comparable research and testing conducted in other  
3 states. The manufacturer shall provide the Department with the data and  
4 findings of all evaluations of the performance of the system that have been  
5 conducted in any state by or on behalf of the manufacturer. The  
6 manufacturer shall also provide the Department with a summary of the data  
7 and findings of all other evaluations of the performance of the system that  
8 are known to the manufacturer.

9 (3) If the wastewater system has not been evaluated or approved as a provisional  
10 system pursuant to subsection (f) of this section, but has been evaluated  
11 under protocol established by a nationally recognized certification body for  
12 at least two consecutive years, has been found to perform acceptably based  
13 on the criteria of the protocol, and is designed and will be installed in a  
14 manner consistent with the system evaluated and approved by the nationally  
15 recognized certification body, the manufacturer may apply to have the  
16 system approved as an innovative wastewater system.

17 Within 30 days of receipt of the initial application, the Department shall either (i) notify the  
18 manufacturer of any items necessary to complete the application or (ii) notify the manufacturer  
19 that its application is complete. The Department shall publish a notice that the manufacturer has  
20 submitted an application under this subsection in the North Carolina Register and may provide  
21 additional notice to the public via the Internet or by other means. The Department shall receive  
22 public comment on the application for at least 30 days after the date the notice is published in  
23 the North Carolina Register. In making a determination under this subsection, the Department  
24 shall consider the data, findings, and recommendations submitted by the manufacturer and all  
25 public comment. The Department may also consider any other information that the Department  
26 determines to be relevant. The Department shall determine: (i) whether the system performs in  
27 a manner equal or superior to a conventional wastewater ~~system;~~ system, in terms of structural  
28 integrity, treatment, and hydraulic performance; (ii) whether the system is constructed of  
29 materials whose physical and chemical properties provide the strength, durability, and chemical  
30 resistance to allow the system to withstand loads and conditions as required by rules adopted by  
31 the Commission; (iii) the circumstances in which use of the system is appropriate; and (iv) any  
32 conditions and limitations related to the use of the system. The Department shall make the  
33 determinations required by this subsection and approve or deny the application within ~~180~~ 90  
34 days after the Department receives a complete application from a manufacturer. If the  
35 Department fails to act on the application within ~~180 days,~~ 90 days of the notice of receipt of the  
36 complete application, the manufacturer may treat the application as denied and challenge the  
37 denial by filing a contested case as provided in Article 3 of Chapter 150B of the General  
38 Statutes. If the Department approves an innovative wastewater system, the Department shall  
39 notify the manufacturer of the approval and specify the circumstances in which use of the  
40 system is appropriate and any conditions and limitations related to the use of the system.

41 (g1) Approval of Functionally Equivalent Trench Systems as Innovative Systems. – A  
42 manufacturer of a wastewater trench system may petition the Commission to have the  
43 wastewater trench system approved as an innovative wastewater system as provided in this  
44 subsection.

45 (1) The Commission shall approve a wastewater trench system as an innovative  
46 wastewater system if it finds that there is clear, convincing, and cogent  
47 evidence that the wastewater trench system is functionally equivalent to a  
48 wastewater trench system that is approved as an accepted wastewater  
49 system. A wastewater trench system shall be considered functionally  
50 equivalent to an accepted wastewater trench system if the performance



- 1 characteristics of the wastewater trench system satisfy all of the following  
2 requirements:
- 3 a. The physical properties and chemical durability of the materials from  
4 which the wastewater trench system is constructed are equal to or  
5 superior to the physical properties and chemical durability of the  
6 materials from which the accepted wastewater trench system is  
7 constructed.
  - 8 b. The permeable sidewall area and bottom infiltrative area of the  
9 wastewater trench system are equal to or greater than the permeable  
10 sidewall area and bottom infiltrative area of the accepted wastewater  
11 trench system at a field-installed size.
  - 12 c. The wastewater trench system utilizes a similar method and manner  
13 of function for the conveyance and application of effluent as the  
14 accepted wastewater trench system.
  - 15 d. The structural integrity of the wastewater trench system is equal to or  
16 superior to the structural integrity of the accepted wastewater trench  
17 system.
  - 18 e. The wastewater trench system shall provide a field installed system  
19 storage volume equal to or greater than the field installed system  
20 storage volume of the accepted wastewater trench system.
- 21 (2) As part of its petition, the manufacturer shall provide to the Commission all  
22 of the following information:
- 23 a. Specifications of the wastewater trench system.
  - 24 b. Data necessary to demonstrate that the wastewater trench system is  
25 functionally equivalent to a wastewater trench system that is  
26 approved as an accepted wastewater system.
  - 27 c. A certified statement from an independent, third-party professional  
28 engineer or testing laboratory that, based on verified documentation,  
29 the wastewater trench system is functionally equivalent to an  
30 accepted wastewater system.
- 31 (3) Approval of a wastewater trench system as an innovative wastewater system  
32 shall not be conditioned on the manufacturer of the wastewater trench  
33 system having operational systems installed in the State.
- 34 (4) The Commission shall authorize the use of a wastewater trench system as an  
35 innovative wastewater system in the same applications as the accepted  
36 wastewater trench system.
- 37 (5) The Commission shall not include conditions and limitations in the approval  
38 of a wastewater trench system as an innovative wastewater system that are  
39 not included in the approval of the accepted wastewater trench system.
- 40 (h) Accepted Wastewater Dispersal Systems. – A manufacturer of an innovative  
41 wastewater dispersal system that has been in general use in this State for ~~more than~~ a minimum  
42 of five years may petition the Commission to have the system designated as an accepted  
43 wastewater system as provided in this subsection. The manufacturer shall provide the  
44 Commission with the data and findings of all prior evaluations of the performance of the  
45 ~~system~~ system in this State and other states referenced in the petition, including disclosure of  
46 any conditions found to result in unacceptable structural integrity, treatment, or hydraulic  
47 performance. In addition, the manufacturer shall provide the Commission with information  
48 sufficient to enable the Commission to fully evaluate the performance of the system in this  
49 State for at least the five-year period immediately preceding the petition. The Commission shall  
50 designate a wastewater system as an accepted wastewater system only if it finds that there is  
51 clear, convincing, and cogent evidence (i) to confirm the findings made by the Department at

1 the time the Department approved the system as an innovative wastewater system and (ii) that  
 2 the system performs in a manner that is equal or superior to a conventional wastewater system  
 3 under actual field conditions in this State. The Commission shall specify the circumstances in  
 4 which use of the system is appropriate and any conditions and limitations related to the use of  
 5 the system.

6 (i) ~~Miscellaneous Provisions.~~ Nonproprietary Wastewater Systems. –

7 (1) ~~In evaluating applications for approval under this section, the Department~~  
 8 ~~may consult with persons who have special training and experience related~~  
 9 ~~to on-site subsurface wastewater systems and may form a technical advisory~~  
 10 ~~committee for this purpose. However, the Department is responsible for~~  
 11 ~~making timely and appropriate determinations under this section.~~

12 (2) The Department may initiate a review of a nonproprietary wastewater  
 13 system and approve the system for ~~on-site subsurface use as an experimental~~  
 14 ~~wastewater system, a controlled demonstration wastewater system, as a~~  
 15 provisional wastewater system or an innovative wastewater system without  
 16 having received an application from a manufacturer. The Department may  
 17 recommend that the Commission designate a nonproprietary wastewater  
 18 system as an accepted wastewater system without having received a petition  
 19 from a manufacturer.

20 (j) ~~Warranty Required in Certain Circumstances.~~ – ~~The Department shall not approve a~~  
 21 ~~reduction of the total nitrification trench length for an innovative wastewater system or~~  
 22 ~~accepted wastewater system handling untreated septic tank effluent of more than twenty five~~  
 23 ~~percent (25%) as compared to the total nitrification trench length required for a 36-inch wide~~  
 24 ~~conventional wastewater system unless the manufacturer of the innovative wastewater system~~  
 25 ~~or accepted wastewater system provides a performance warranty for the nitrification trench~~  
 26 ~~system to each owner or purchaser of the system for a warranty period of at least five years~~  
 27 ~~from the date on which the wastewater system is placed in operation. The warranty shall~~  
 28 ~~provide that the manufacturer shall provide all material and labor that may be necessary to~~  
 29 ~~provide a fully functional wastewater system. The Commission shall establish minimum terms~~  
 30 ~~and conditions for the warranty required by this subsection. This subsection shall not be~~  
 31 ~~construed to require that a manufacturer warrant a wastewater system that is not properly sized~~  
 32 ~~to meet the design load required for a particular use, that is improperly installed, or that is~~  
 33 ~~improperly operated and maintained.~~

34 (j1) Clarification With Respect to Certain Dispersal Media. – In considering the  
 35 application by a manufacturer of a wastewater system utilizing expanded polystyrene synthetic  
 36 aggregate particles as a septic effluent dispersal medium for approval of the system under this  
 37 section, neither the Commission nor the Department may condition, delay, or deny the approval  
 38 based on the particle or bulk density of the expanded polystyrene material. With respect to  
 39 approvals already issued by the Department or Commission that include conditions or  
 40 requirements related to the particle or bulk density of expanded polystyrene material, the  
 41 Commission or Department, as applicable, shall promptly reissue all such approvals with the  
 42 conditions and requirements relating to the density of expanded polystyrene material  
 43 permanently deleted while leaving all other terms and conditions of the approval intact.

44 (k) Fees. – The Department shall collect the following fees under this section:

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 45 (1) Review of an alternative protocol   |                       |
| 46 under subsection (d) of this section  | \$1,000.00            |
| 47 (2) <del>Review of an experimental system</del>                               | <del>\$3,000.00</del> |
| 48 (3) Review of a <del>controlled demonstration</del> <u>provisional</u> system | \$3,000.00            |
| 49 (4) Review of an innovative system  | \$3,000.00            |
| 50 (5) Review of an accepted system  | \$3,000.00            |
| 51 (6) Review of a residential wastewater treatment                              |                       |

1	system pursuant to G.S. 130A-342	\$1,500.00
2	(7) Review of a component <u>or device required</u> of a system	\$ 100.00
3	(8) Modification to approved <u>accepted, provisional, or</u>	\$1,000.00
4	innovative system	

(l) On-Site Wastewater System Account. – The On-Site Wastewater System Account is established as a nonreverting account within the Department. Fees collected pursuant to this section shall be placed in the On-Site Wastewater System Account and shall be applied only to the costs of implementing this section."

**SECTION 4.15.(b)** The Commission for Public Health shall review and amend its rules to implement Section 4.15(a) of this act.

**SECTION 4.15.(c)** Beginning October 1, 2015, and every quarter thereafter until all rules required pursuant to Sections 4.14 and 4.15 of this act are adopted or amended, the Commission for Public Health shall submit written reports as to its progress on adopting or amending rules as required by Sections 4.14 and 4.15 of this act to the Environmental Review Commission and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services. The Commission shall supplement the written reports required by this subsection with additional written and oral reports as may be requested by the Environmental Review Commission and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services. The Commission shall submit the written reports required by this subsection whether or not the General Assembly is in session at the time the report is due.

**SECTION 4.15.(d)** The Commission for Public Health, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, local health departments, and stakeholders representing the wastewater system industry, shall study the costs and benefits of requiring treatment standards greater than those listed by nationally recognized standards, including the recorded advantage of such higher treatment standards for the protection of the public health and the environment. The Commission shall report its findings and recommendations, including any legislative proposals, to the Environmental Review Commission and the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before January 1, 2016.

## CONTESTED CASES FOR AIR PERMITS

**SECTION 4.17.** G.S. 143-215.108 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143-215.108. Control of sources of air pollution; permits required.**

...

(e) A permit ~~applicant, permittee, or third party~~applicant or permittee who is dissatisfied with a decision of the Commission on a permit application may commence a contested case by filing a petition under G.S. 150B-23 within 30 days after the Commission notifies the applicant or permittee of its decision. If the permit ~~applicant, permittee, or third party~~applicant or permittee does not file a petition within the required time, the Commission's decision on the application is final and is not subject to review. The filing of a petition under this subsection will stay the Commission's decision until resolution of the contested case.

(e1) A person other than a permit applicant or permittee who is a person aggrieved by the Commission's decision on a permit application may commence a contested case by filing a petition under G.S. 150B-23 within 30 days after the Commission provides notice of its decision on a permit application, as provided in G.S. 150B-23(f), or by posting the decision on a publicly available Web site. The filing of a petition under this subsection does not stay the Commission's decision except as ordered by the administrative law judge under G.S. 150B-33(b).

...."

## AMEND ISOLATED WETLANDS LAW

1           **SECTION 4.18.(a)** For the purposes of implementing Section .1300 of Subchapter  
2 2H of Chapter 2 of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code (Discharges to  
3 Isolated Wetlands and Isolated Waters), the isolated wetlands provisions of Section .1300 shall  
4 apply only to a Basin Wetland or Bog and no other wetland types as described in the North  
5 Carolina Wetland Assessment User Manual prepared by the North Carolina Wetland  
6 Functional Assessment Team, version 4.1 October 2010 that are not jurisdictional wetlands  
7 under the federal Clean Water Act. The isolated wetlands provisions of Section .1300 shall not  
8 apply to an isolated man-made ditch or pond constructed for stormwater management purposes,  
9 any other man-made isolated pond, or any other type of isolated wetland, and the Department  
10 of Environment and Natural Resources shall not regulate such water bodies under Section  
11 .1300.

12           **SECTION 4.18.(b)** The Environmental Management Commission may adopt rules  
13 to amend Section .1300 of Subchapter 2H of Chapter 2 of Title 15A of the North Carolina  
14 Administrative Code consistent with subsection (a) of this section.

15           **SECTION 4.18.(c)** Section 54 of S.L. 2014-120 reads as rewritten:

16           **"SECTION 54.(a)** Until the effective date of the revised permanent rule that the  
17 Environmental Management Commission is required to adopt pursuant to Section 54(c) of this  
18 act, the Commission and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall  
19 implement 15A NCAC 02H .1305 (Review of Applications) as provided in Section 54(b) of  
20 this act.

21           **"SECTION 54.(b)** Notwithstanding 15A NCAC 02H .1305 (Review of Applications), all  
22 of the following shall apply to the implementation of 15A NCAC 02H .1305:

- 23           (1) The amount of impacts of isolated wetlands under 15A NCAC 02H  
24 .1305(d)(2) shall be less than or equal to one acre of isolated wetlands east  
25 of I-95 for the entire project and less than or equal to 1/3 acre of isolated  
26 wetlands west of I-95 for the entire project.
- 27           (2) Mitigation requirements for impacts to isolated wetlands shall only apply to  
28 the amount of impact that exceeds the threshold set out in subdivision (1) of  
29 this section. The mitigation ratio for impacts of greater than one acre  
30 exceeding the threshold for the entire project under 15A NCAC 02H  
31 .1305(g)(6) shall be 1:1 and may be located on the same parcel.
- 32           (3) ~~For purposes of Section 54(b) of this section, "isolated wetlands" means a~~  
33 ~~Basin Wetland or Bog as described in the North Carolina Wetland~~  
34 ~~Assessment User Manual prepared by the North Carolina Wetland~~  
35 ~~Functional Assessment Team, version 4.1 October, 2010, that are not~~  
36 ~~jurisdictional wetlands under the federal Clean Water Act. An "isolated~~  
37 ~~wetland" does not include an isolated man-made ditch or pond constructed~~  
38 ~~for stormwater management purposes or any other man-made isolated pond.~~
- 39           (4) Impacts to isolated wetlands shall not be combined with the project impacts  
40 to 404 jurisdictional wetlands or streams for the purpose of determining  
41 when impact thresholds that trigger a mitigation requirement are met.

42           **"SECTION 54.(c)** The Environmental Management Commission shall adopt rules to  
43 amend 15A NCAC 02H .1300 through 15A NCAC 02H .1305 consistent with Section 54(b) of  
44 this act. Notwithstanding G.S. 150B-19(4), the rule adopted by the Commission pursuant to this  
45 subsection shall be substantively identical to the provisions of Section 54(b) of this act. Rules  
46 adopted pursuant to this subsection are not subject to Part 3 of Article 2A of Chapter 150B of  
47 the General Statutes. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection shall become effective as  
48 provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1) as though 10 or more written objections had been received as  
49 provided by G.S. 150B-21.3(b2).

50           **"SECTION 54.(d)** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall study (i)  
51 how the term "isolated wetland" has been previously defined in State law and whether the term

1 should be clarified in order to provide greater certainty in identifying isolated wetlands; (ii) the  
2 surface area thresholds for the regulation of mountain bog isolated wetlands, including whether  
3 mountain bog isolated wetlands should have surface area regulatory thresholds different from  
4 other types of isolated wetlands; and (iii) whether impacts to isolated wetlands should be  
5 combined with the project impacts to jurisdictional wetlands or streams for the purpose of  
6 determining when impact thresholds that trigger a mitigation requirement are met. The  
7 Department shall report its findings and recommendations to the Environmental Review  
8 Commission on or before November 1, 2014.

9 "SECTION 54.(e) This section is effective when it becomes law. Section 54(b) of this act  
10 expires on the date that rules adopted pursuant to Section 54(c) of this act become effective."  
11

## 12 AMEND COASTAL STORMWATER REQUIREMENTS

13 SECTION 4.19.(a) Section 2(b) of S.L. 2008-211 reads as rewritten:

14 "SECTION 2.(b) Requirements for Certain Nonresidential and Residential Development  
15 in the Coastal Counties. – All nonresidential development activities that occur within the  
16 Coastal Counties ~~that will add more than 10,000 square feet of built-upon area or that~~ require a  
17 Sedimentation and Erosion Control Plan, pursuant to G.S. 113A-57 or a Coastal Area  
18 Management Act (CAMA) Major Development Permit, pursuant to G.S. 113A-118 and all  
19 residential development activities within the Coastal Counties that require a Sedimentation and  
20 Erosion Control Plan, pursuant to G.S. 113A-57 or a Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA)  
21 Major Development Permit, pursuant to G.S. 113A-118 shall manage stormwater runoff as  
22 provided in this subsection. A development activity or project requires a Sedimentation and  
23 Erosion Control Plan if the activity or project disturbs one acre or more of land, including an  
24 activity or project that disturbs less than one acre of land that is part of a larger common plan of  
25 development. Whether an activity or project that disturbs less than one acre of land is part of a  
26 larger common plan of development shall be determined in a manner consistent with the  
27 memorandum referenced as "Guidance Interpreting Phase 2 Stormwater Requirements" from  
28 the Director of the Division of Water Quality of the Department of Environment and Natural  
29 Resources to Interested Parties dated 24 July 2006.

30 (1) Development Near Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW). – Development  
31 activities within the Coastal Counties and located within 575 feet of the  
32 mean high waterline of areas designated by the Commission as Outstanding  
33 Resource Waters (ORW) ~~shall meet the requirements of 15A NCAC 02H~~  
34 ~~.1007 (Stormwater Requirements: Outstanding Resource Waters) and shall~~  
35 be permitted as follows:

36 a. Low-Density Option. – Development shall be permitted pursuant to  
37 15A NCAC 02H .1003(d)(1) if the development meets all of the  
38 following requirements:

39 1. The development has a built upon area of ~~twelve percent~~  
40 ~~(12%)~~ twenty-four percent (24%) or less. A development  
41 project with an overall density at or below the low-density  
42 threshold, but containing areas with a density greater than the  
43 overall project density, shall be considered low-density as  
44 long as the project meets or exceeds the requirements for  
45 low-density development and locates the higher density  
46 development in upland areas and away from surface waters  
47 and drainageways to the maximum extent practicable.

48 2. Stormwater runoff from the development is transported  
49 primarily by vegetated conveyances. As used in this  
50 sub-sub-subdivision, "conveyance system" shall not include a  
51 stormwater collection system. Stormwater runoff from built

- 1 upon areas that is directed to flow through any wetlands shall  
2 flow into and through these wetlands at a non-erosive  
3 velocity.
- 4 3. The development contains a 50-foot-wide vegetative buffer  
5 for new development activities and a 30-foot-wide vegetative  
6 buffer for redevelopment activities. The width of a buffer is  
7 measured horizontally from the normal pool elevation of  
8 impounded structures, from the bank of each side of streams  
9 or rivers, and from the mean high waterline of tidal waters,  
10 perpendicular to the shoreline. The vegetative buffer may be  
11 cleared or graded, but must be planted with and maintained in  
12 grass or any other vegetative or plant material. The Division  
13 of Water Quality may, on a case-by-case basis, grant a minor  
14 variance from the vegetative buffer requirements of this  
15 section pursuant to the procedures set out in 15A NCAC 02B  
16 .0233(9)(b). Vegetative buffers and filters required by this  
17 section and any other buffers or filters required by State water  
18 quality or coastal management rules or local government  
19 requirements may be met concurrently and may contain, in  
20 whole or in part, coastal, isolated, or 404 jurisdictional  
21 wetlands that are located landward of the normal waterline.
- 22 b. High-Density Option. – Development shall be permitted pursuant to  
23 15A NCAC 02H .1003(d)(2) if the development meets all of the  
24 following requirements:
- 25 1. The development has a built upon area of greater than ~~twelve~~  
26 ~~percent (12%).~~ twenty-four percent (24%).
- 27 2. The development has no direct outlet channels or pipes to  
28 Class SA waters unless permitted in accordance with 15A  
29 NCAC 02H .0126. Stormwater runoff from built upon areas  
30 that is directed to flow through any wetlands shall flow into  
31 and through these wetlands at a non-erosive velocity.
- 32 3. The development utilizes control systems that are any  
33 combination of infiltration systems, bioretention systems,  
34 constructed stormwater wetlands, sand filters, rain barrels,  
35 cisterns, rain gardens or alternative low impact development  
36 stormwater management systems designed in accordance with  
37 15A NCAC 02H .1008 to control and treat the runoff from all  
38 surfaces generated by one and one-half inches of rainfall, or  
39 the difference in the stormwater runoff from all surfaces from  
40 the predevelopment and postdevelopment conditions for a  
41 one-year, 24-hour storm, whichever is greater. Wet detention  
42 ponds may be used as a stormwater control system to meet  
43 the requirements of this sub-sub-subdivision, provided that  
44 the stormwater control system fully complies with the  
45 requirements of this sub-subdivision. If a wet detention pond  
46 is used within one-half mile of Class SA waters, installation  
47 of a stormwater best management practice in series with the  
48 wet detention pond shall be required to treat the discharge  
49 from the wet detention pond. Secondary stormwater best  
50 management practices that are used in series with another  
51 stormwater best management practice do not require any

1 minimum separation from the seasonal high water table.  
 2 Alternatives as described in 15A NCAC 02H .1008(h) may  
 3 also be approved if they meet the requirements of this  
 4 sub-subdivision.

5 4. Stormwater runoff from the development that is in excess of  
 6 the design volume must flow overland through a vegetative  
 7 filter designed in accordance with 15A NCAC 02H .1008  
 8 with a minimum length of 50 feet measured from mean high  
 9 water of Class SA waters.

10 5. The development contains a 50-foot-wide vegetative buffer  
 11 for new development activities and a 30-foot-wide vegetative  
 12 buffer for redevelopment activities. The width of a buffer is  
 13 measured horizontally from the normal pool elevation of  
 14 impounded structures, from the bank of each side of streams  
 15 or rivers, and from the mean high waterline of tidal waters,  
 16 perpendicular to the shoreline. The vegetative buffer may be  
 17 cleared or graded, but must be planted with, and maintained  
 18 in, grass or any other vegetative or plant material.  
 19 Furthermore, stormwater control best management practices  
 20 (BMPs), or stormwater control structures, with the exception  
 21 of wet detention ponds, may be located within this vegetative  
 22 buffer. The Division of Water Quality may, on a case by case  
 23 basis, grant a minor variance from the vegetative buffer  
 24 requirements of this section pursuant to the procedures set out  
 25 in 15A NCAC 02B .0233(9)(b). Vegetative buffers and filters  
 26 required by this section and any other buffers or filters  
 27 required by State water quality or coastal management rules  
 28 or local government requirements may be met concurrently  
 29 and may contain, in whole or in part, coastal, isolated, or 404  
 30 jurisdictional wetlands that are located landward of the  
 31 normal waterline.

32 "...."

33 **SECTION 4.19.(b)** Section 2(c) of S.L. 2008-211 reads as rewritten:

34 "**SECTION 2.(c)** Requirements for Limited Residential Development in Coastal Counties.

35 – For residential development activities within the 20 Coastal Counties that are located within  
 36 one-half mile and draining to Class SA waters, that have a built upon area greater than ~~twelve~~  
 37 ~~percent (12%),~~ twenty-four percent (24%), that do not require a stormwater management permit  
 38 under subsection (b) of this section, and that will add more than 10,000 square feet of built  
 39 upon area, a one-time, nonrenewable stormwater management permit shall be obtained. The  
 40 permit shall require recorded deed restrictions or protective covenants to ensure that the plans  
 41 and specifications approved in the permit are maintained. Under this permit, stormwater runoff  
 42 shall be managed using any one or combination of the following practices:

- 43 (1) Install rain cisterns or rain barrels designed to collect all rooftop runoff from  
 44 the first one and one-half inches of rain. Rain barrels and cisterns shall be  
 45 installed in such a manner as to facilitate the reuse of the collected rain water  
 46 on site and shall be installed in such a manner that any overflow from these  
 47 devices is directed to a vegetated area in a diffuse flow. Construct all  
 48 uncovered driveways, uncovered parking areas, uncovered walkways, and  
 49 uncovered patios out of permeable pavement or other pervious materials.  
 50 (2) Direct rooftop runoff from the first one and one-half inches of rain to an  
 51 appropriately sized and designed rain garden. Construct all uncovered

1 driveways, uncovered parking areas, uncovered walkways, and uncovered  
2 patios out of permeable pavement or other pervious materials.

- 3 (3) Install any other stormwater best management practice that meets the  
4 requirements of 15A NCAC 02H .1008 to control and treat the stormwater  
5 runoff from all built upon areas of the site from the first one and one-half  
6 inches of rain."

7 **SECTION 4.19.(c)** As necessary to comply with federal stormwater management  
8 requirements, the rescission of designations of local governments within the 20 Coastal  
9 Counties as Phase 2 municipalities pursuant to Section 3 of S.L. 2008-211 is repealed.

10 **SECTION 4.19.(d)** This section becomes effective January 1, 2016.

## 11 12 **EXEMPT LINEAR UTILITY PROJECTS FROM CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL** 13 **REGULATIONS**

14 **SECTION 4.21.** Article 17 of Chapter 62 of the General Statutes is amended by  
15 adding a new section to read:

### 16 **"§ 62-351. Exempt linear utility projects from certain environmental regulations.**

17 Except as required by federal law, activities related to the construction, maintenance, or  
18 removal of a linear utility project shall be exempt from regulation by an agency authorized to  
19 implement and enforce State and federal environmental laws. For purposes of this section,  
20 "linear utility project" means an electric power line, water line, sewage line, stormwater  
21 drainage line, telephone line, cable television line, data transmission line, or natural gas  
22 pipeline. For purposes of this section, "an agency authorized to implement and enforce State  
23 and federal environmental laws" means any of the following:

- 24 (1) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources created pursuant to  
25 G.S. 143B-279.1.  
26 (2) The Environmental Management Commission created pursuant to  
27 G.S. 143B-282.  
28 (3) The Coastal Resources Commission established pursuant to G.S. 113A-104.  
29 (4) The Marine Fisheries Commission created pursuant to G.S. 143B-289.51.  
30 (5) The Wildlife Resources Commission created pursuant to G.S. 143-240.  
31 (6) The Commission for Public Health created pursuant to G.S. 130A-29.  
32 (7) The Sedimentation Control Commission created pursuant to G.S. 143B-298.  
33 (8) The North Carolina Mining and Energy Commission created pursuant to  
34 G.S. 143B-293.1.  
35 (9) The North Carolina Oil and Gas Commission created pursuant to  
36 G.S. 143B-293.1."  
37

## 38 **REPEAL DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** 39 **IDLING RULES**

40 **SECTION 4.24.** The Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources shall repeal  
41 15A NCAC 02D .1010 (Heavy-Duty Vehicle Idling Restrictions) on or before December 1,  
42 2015. Until the effective date of the repeal of the rule required pursuant to this section, the  
43 Secretary, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Environmental  
44 Management Commission, or any other political subdivision of the State shall not implement or  
45 enforce 15A NCAC 02D .1010 (Heavy-Duty Vehicle Idling Restrictions).  
46

## 47 **AMBIENT AIR MONITORING**

48 **SECTION 4.25.(a)** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall  
49 review its ambient air monitoring network and, in the next annual monitoring network plan  
50 submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, shall request the removal of  
51 any ambient air monitors not required by applicable federal laws and regulations.



1           **SECTION 4.25.(b)** No later than September 1, 2016, the Department of  
2 Environment and Natural Resources shall discontinue all ambient air monitors not required by  
3 applicable federal laws and regulations if approval from the United States Environmental  
4 Protection Agency is not required for the discontinuance.

5           **SECTION 4.25.(c)** Nothing in this section is intended to prevent the Department  
6 from installing temporary ambient air monitors as part of an investigation of a suspected  
7 violation of air quality rules, standards, or limitations or in response to an emergency situation  
8 causing an imminent danger to human health and safety.

9           **SECTION 4.25.(d)** The Division of Air Quality, Department of Environment and  
10 Natural Resources, shall report to the Environmental Review Commission no later than  
11 November 1, 2016, on the status of the ambient air monitoring network and the Division's  
12 implementation of the requirements of this section.

## 13 **DIVISION OF AIR QUALITY NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

14           **SECTION 4.27.** G.S. 143-215.110 reads as rewritten:

### 15 **"§ 143-215.110. Special orders.**

16           (a) Issuance. – The Commission is hereby empowered, after the effective date of  
17 standards and classifications adopted pursuant to G.S. 143-215.107, to issue (and from time to  
18 time to modify or revoke) a special order or other appropriate instrument, to any person whom  
19 it finds responsible for causing or contributing to any pollution of the air within the area for  
20 which standards have been established. Such an order or instrument may direct such person to  
21 take or refrain from taking such action, or to achieve such results, within a period of time  
22 specified by such special order, as the Commission deems necessary and feasible in order to  
23 alleviate or eliminate such pollution. The Commission is authorized to enter into consent  
24 special orders, assurances of voluntary compliance or other similar documents by agreement  
25 with the person responsible for pollution of the air, subject to the provisions of subsection (a1)  
26 of this section regarding proposed orders, and such consent order, when entered into by the  
27 Commission after public review, shall have the same force and effect as a special order of the  
28 Commission issued pursuant to hearing.

#### 29           (a1) Public Notice and Review of Consent Orders.

30           (1) The Commission shall give notice of a proposed consent order to the proper  
31 State, interstate, and federal agencies, to interested persons, and to the  
32 public. The Commission may also provide any other data it considers  
33 appropriate to those notified. The Commission shall prescribe the form and  
34 content of the notice. The notice shall be given at least ~~45-30~~ days prior to  
35 any final action regarding the consent order. Public notice shall be given by  
36 publication of the notice ~~one time in a newspaper having general circulation~~  
37 ~~within the county in which the pollution originates.~~ for 30 days on the  
38 regulatory agency Web site.

39           (2) Any person who desires a public meeting on any proposed consent order  
40 may request one in writing to the Commission within 30 days following date  
41 of the notice of the proposed consent order. The Commission shall consider  
42 all such requests for meetings. If the Commission determines that there is  
43 significant public interest in holding a meeting, the Commission shall  
44 schedule a meeting and shall give notice of such meeting at least 30 days in  
45 advance to all persons to whom notice of the proposed consent order was  
46 given and to any other person requesting notice. At least 30 days prior to the  
47 date of meeting, the Commission shall also have a copy of the notice of the  
48 meeting published at least ~~one time in a newspaper having general~~  
49 ~~circulation within the county in which the pollution originates.~~ for 30 days on  
50

1                    the regulatory agency Web site. The Commission shall prescribe the form  
2                    and content of notices under this subsection.

3                    ...."

## 5    **DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION**

6                    **SECTION 4.29.(a)** G.S. 143-254.5 reads as rewritten:

7    **"§ 143-254.5. Disclosure of personal identifying information.**

8                    Social security numbers and identifying information obtained by the Commission shall be  
9                    treated as provided in G.S. 132-1.10. For purposes of this section, "identifying information"  
10                    also includes a person's mailing address, residence address, e-mail address, date of birth, and  
11                    telephone number."

12                    **SECTION 4.29.(b)** G.S. 143B-289.52(h) reads as rewritten:

13                    "(h) Social security numbers and identifying information obtained by the Commission or  
14                    the Division of Marine Fisheries shall be treated as provided in G.S. 132-1.10. For purposes of  
15                    this subsection, "identifying information" also includes a person's mailing address, residence  
16                    address, e-mail address, date of birth, and telephone number."

## 18    **PROVIDE REGULATORY RELIEF BY INCREASING THRESHOLDS FOR 19    MITIGATION OF LINEAR STREAM IMPACTS**

20                    **SECTION 4.30.(a)** The Environmental Management Commission shall amend its  
21                    rules for water quality certifications (15A NCAC 2H .0501 through 2H .0507) to provide for all  
22                    of the following:

23                    (1) With respect to mitigation required for activities that result in the loss of a  
24                    perennial stream or an ephemeral/intermittent stream, the requirement of  
25                    mitigation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for less than 300 linear feet  
26                    of streambed shall not be considered to be the mitigation required by the  
27                    water quality certification, unless the Commission makes a specific finding  
28                    based upon ecological, hydrological, or other scientific data that total,  
29                    critical, and irreversible damage to existing uses of the stream will occur if  
30                    no mitigation is required.

31                    (2) In cases where more than 300 linear feet of streambed are lost, the  
32                    Commission shall require mitigation at a one-to-one ratio only for the  
33                    number of feet of streambed lost above 300 linear feet.

34                    **SECTION 4.30.(b)** The Environmental Management Commission shall adopt  
35                    temporary rules to implement this section no later than September 30, 2015. The Commission  
36                    shall also adopt permanent rules to implement this section.

## 38    **PROHIBIT THE REQUIREMENT OF MITIGATION FOR IMPACTS TO 39    INTERMITTENT STREAMS**

40                    **SECTION 4.31.(a)** Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended  
41                    by adding a new section to read:

42    **"§ 143-214.7C. Prohibit the requirement of mitigation for impacts to intermittent  
43    streams.**

44                    Except as required by federal law and notwithstanding any other provision of State law, the  
45                    Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall not require mitigation for impacts to  
46                    an intermittent stream. For purposes of this section, "intermittent stream" means a well-defined  
47                    channel that has all of the following characteristics:

48                    (1) It contains water for only part of the year, typically during winter and spring  
49                    when the aquatic bed is below the water table.

50                    (2) The flow of water in the intermittent stream may be heavily supplemented  
51                    by stormwater runoff.

1           (3) It often lacks the biological and hydrological characteristics commonly  
2           associated with the conveyance of water."

3           **SECTION 4.31.(b)** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources and  
4 the Environmental Management Commission shall amend their rules so that the rules are  
5 consistent with the provisions of G.S. 143-214.7C, as enacted by subsection (a) of this section.  
6

#### 7 **PIGEON HUNTING**

8           **SECTION 4.32.** G.S. 113-129(15a) reads as rewritten:

9           "(15a) Wild Birds. – Migratory game birds; upland game birds; and all  
10           undomesticated feathered vertebrates. ~~The~~Except as otherwise provided in  
11           this subdivision, the Wildlife Resources Commission may by regulation list  
12           specific birds or classes of birds excluded from the definition of wild birds  
13           based upon the need for protection or regulation in the interests of  
14           conservation of wildlife resources. Pigeons are wild birds."  
15

#### 16 **WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION STUDIES**

17           **SECTION 4.33.(a)** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall review the methods  
18 and criteria by which it adds, removes, or changes the status of animals on the State protected  
19 animal list as defined in G.S. 113-331 and compare these to federal regulations and the  
20 methods and criteria of other states in the region. The Commission shall also review the  
21 policies by which the State addresses introduced species and make recommendations for  
22 improving these policies, including impacts associated with hybridization that occurs among  
23 federally listed, State-listed, and nonlisted animals.

24           **SECTION 4.33.(b)** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall report its findings  
25 and recommendations to the Environmental Review Commission by March 1, 2016.

26           **SECTION 4.34.(a)** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall establish a coyote  
27 management plan to address the impacts of coyotes in this State and the threats that coyotes  
28 pose to citizens, industries, and populations of native wildlife species within the State.

29           **SECTION 4.34.(b)** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall report its findings  
30 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation to address overpopulation of coyotes,  
31 to the Environmental Review Commission by March 1, 2016.

32           **SECTION 4.35.(a)** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall establish a pilot  
33 coyote management assistance program in Mitchell County. In implementing the program, the  
34 Commission shall document and assess private property damage associated with coyotes;  
35 evaluate effectiveness of different coyote control methodologies, including lethal removal; and  
36 evaluate potential for a scalable statewide coyote assistance program.

37           **SECTION 4.35.(b)** The Wildlife Resources Commission shall submit an interim  
38 report on the progress of the pilot program to the Environmental Review Commission by  
39 March 1, 2016. The Wildlife Resources Commission shall submit a final report on the results of  
40 the pilot program, including any proposed legislation, to the Environmental Review  
41 Commission by January 1, 2017.  
42

#### 43 **ANIMAL WELFARE HOTLINE AND COURT FEE TO SUPPORT THE** 44 **INVESTIGATION OF ANIMAL CRUELTY VIOLATIONS**

45           **SECTION 4.36.(a)** Article 1 of Chapter 114 of the General Statutes is amended by  
46 adding a new section to read:

#### 47 **"§ 114-8.7. Reports of animal cruelty and animal welfare violations.**

48           (a) The Attorney General shall establish a hotline, to be known as the "NC Pets We  
49 Care Hotline," to receive reports of allegations of animal cruelty or violations of the Animal  
50 Welfare Act, Article 3 of Chapter 19A of the General Statutes, against animals under private  
51 ownership, by means including telephone, electronic mail, and Internet Web site. The Attorney

1 General shall periodically publicize the hotline telephone number, electronic mail address,  
2 Internet Web site address, and any other means by which the Attorney General may receive  
3 reports of allegations of animal cruelty or violations of the Animal Welfare Act. Any individual  
4 who makes a report under this section shall disclose his or her name and telephone number and  
5 any other information the Attorney General may require.

6 (b) When the Attorney General receives allegations involving activity that the Attorney  
7 General determines may involve cruelty to animals under private ownership in violation of  
8 Article 47 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, the allegations shall be referred to the  
9 appropriate local animal control authority for the unit or units of local government within  
10 which the violations are alleged to have occurred. When the Attorney General receives  
11 allegations involving activity that the Attorney General determines may involve violations of  
12 the Animal Welfare Act, the allegations shall be referred to the Department of Agriculture and  
13 Consumer Services. The Attorney General shall record the total number of reports received on  
14 the hotline and the number of reports received against any individual on the hotline."

15 **SECTION 4.36.(b)** G.S. 7A-304(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to  
16 read:

17 **"§ 7A-304. Costs in criminal actions.**

18 (a) In every criminal case in the superior or district court, wherein the defendant is  
19 convicted, or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or when costs are assessed against the  
20 prosecuting witness, the following costs shall be assessed and collected. No costs may be  
21 assessed when a case is dismissed. Only upon entry of a written order, supported by findings of  
22 fact and conclusions of law, determining that there is just cause, the court may (i) waive costs  
23 assessed under this section or (ii) waive or reduce costs assessed under subdivision (7), (8),  
24 (8a), (11), (12), or (13) of this section.

25 ...  
26 (14) For support of law enforcement in the investigation of violations of Article  
27 47 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes and Animal Welfare Act violations,  
28 the district or superior court judge shall, upon conviction of the defendant,  
29 order payment of the sum of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00) to be  
30 remitted to the general fund of the local governmental unit that investigated  
31 the crime to be used for local animal control authorities."

32 **SECTION 4.36.(c)** Section 4.36(b) of this act becomes effective January 1, 2016,  
33 and applies to fees assessed or collected on or after that date. The remainder of this section is  
34 effective when this act becomes law.

35  
36 **AMEND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT LAW**

37 **SECTION 4.37.(a)** Section 3 of S.L. 2013-82 reads as rewritten:

38 "SECTION 3. The Environmental Management Commission shall adopt rules  
39 implementing Section 2 of this act no later than ~~July 1, 2016.~~November 1, 2016."

40 **SECTION 4.37.(b)** G.S. 143-214.7 reads as rewritten:

41 **"§ 143-214.7. Stormwater runoff rules and programs.**

42 ...  
43 (b2) For purposes of implementing ~~stormwater programs,~~ State stormwater programs and  
44 local stormwater programs approved pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, all of the  
45 following shall apply:

46 (1) ~~"built-upon area"~~"Built-upon area" means impervious surface and partially  
47 impervious surface to the extent that the partially impervious surface does  
48 not allow water to infiltrate through the surface and into the subsoil.  
49 "Built-upon area" does not include a slatted deck or the water area of a  
50 swimming pool.

- 1           (2) Vegetative buffers adjacent to intermittent streams shall be measured from  
 2 the center of the streambed.
- 3           (3) The volume, velocity, and discharge rates of water associated with the  
 4 one-year, 24-hour storm and the difference in stormwater runoff from the  
 5 predevelopment and postdevelopment conditions for the one-year, 24-hour  
 6 storm shall be calculated using any acceptable engineering hydrologic and  
 7 hydraulic methods.
- 8           (4) Development may occur within a vegetative buffer if the development  
 9 complies with all applicable State and federal stormwater management  
 10 requirements and State requirements for protection of watersheds, control  
 11 and prevention of sedimentation and erosion, and reduction and control of  
 12 the pollutant loading that caused impaired water designations to be  
 13 established by the Commission.
- 14           (5) The requirements that apply to development activities within one-half mile  
 15 of and draining to Class SA waters or within one-half mile of Class SA  
 16 waters and draining to unnamed freshwater tributaries shall not apply to  
 17 development activities and associated stormwater discharges that do not  
 18 occur within one-half mile of and draining to Class SA waters or are not  
 19 within one-half mile of Class SA waters and draining to unnamed freshwater  
 20 tributaries.

21           ...

22           (d) The Commission shall review each stormwater management program submitted by  
 23 a State agency or unit of local government and shall notify the State agency or unit of local  
 24 government that submitted the program that the program has been approved, approved with  
 25 modifications, or disapproved. The Commission shall approve a program only if it finds that  
 26 the standards of the program equal ~~or exceed~~ those of the model program adopted by the  
 27 Commission pursuant to this ~~section~~-section and any other model program or regulatory  
 28 requirement that the Commission applies to local governments for protection of water supply  
 29 watersheds, control of erosion and sedimentation, and permits and programs to address  
 30 impairments of water quality standards and uses.

31           ...."

32           **SECTION 4.37.(c)** No later than January 1, 2016, a State agency or local  
 33 government that implements a stormwater management program approved pursuant to  
 34 subsection (d) of G.S. 143-214.7 shall submit its current stormwater management program or a  
 35 revised stormwater management program to the Environmental Management Commission. No  
 36 later than July 1, 2016, the Environmental Management Commission shall review and act on  
 37 each of the submitted stormwater management programs in accordance with subsection (d) of  
 38 G.S. 143-214.7, as amended by this section.

39           **SECTION 4.37.(d)** The Environmental Review Commission, with the assistance  
 40 of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, shall review the current status of  
 41 State statutes, session laws, rules, and guidance documents related to the management of  
 42 stormwater in the State. The Commission shall specifically examine whether State statutes,  
 43 session laws, rules, and guidance documents related to the management of stormwater in the  
 44 State should be recodified or reorganized in order to clarify State law for the management of  
 45 stormwater. The Commission shall submit legislative recommendations, if any, to the 2016  
 46 Regular Session of the 2015 General Assembly.

## 47 **STUDY FLOOD ELEVATIONS AND BUILDING HEIGHT REQUIREMENTS**

48           **SECTION 4.38.** The Department of Insurance, the Department of Public Safety,  
 49 and the Building Code Council shall jointly study how flood elevations and building heights for  
 50 structures are established and measured in the coastal region of the State. The Departments and  
 51

1 the Council shall specifically consider how flood elevations and coastal building height  
2 requirements affect flood insurance rates and how height calculation methods might be made  
3 more consistent and uniform in order to provide flood insurance rate relief. In conducting this  
4 study, the Departments and the Council shall engage a broad group of stakeholders, including  
5 property owners, local governments, representatives of the surveying industry, and  
6 representatives of the development industry. No later than January 1, 2016, the Departments  
7 and the Council shall jointly submit the results of their study, including any legislative  
8 recommendations, to the 2015 General Assembly.

9  
10 **PART V. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

11 **SECTION 5.1.** If any section or provision of this act is declared unconstitutional or  
12 invalid by the courts, it does not affect the validity of this act as a whole or any part other than  
13 the part declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

14 **SECTION 5.2.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
15 law.