

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 685*

Short Title: Amend On-Site Wastewater Contractor Laws. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative E. Warren.

Referred to: Environment and Natural Resources, if favorable, Appropriations.

March 19, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT AMENDING THE LAWS PERTAINING TO ON-SITE WASTEWATER
3 CONTRACTORS AND INSPECTORS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 90A-71 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 90A-71. Definitions.**

7 The following definitions apply in this Article:

8 (1) "Board" means the North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Contractors and
9 Inspectors Certification Board.

10 (2) "Contractor" means a person who constructs, installs, or repairs, or offers to
11 construct, install, or repair an on-site wastewater system in the State.

12 (3) "Conventional wastewater system" has the same meaning as in
13 G.S. 130A-343(a)(3).

14 (4) "Department" means the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

15 (5) "Inspector" means a person who conducts an inspection ~~of an on-site~~
16 ~~wastewater system at any time after the local health department has issued~~
17 ~~an operation permit pursuant to G.S. 130A 337.~~ in accordance with rules
18 adopted by the Board.

19 (5a) "Inspection" means an examination of an on-site wastewater system
20 permitted under the provisions of Article 11 of Chapter 130A of the General
21 Statutes, when requested by a lending institution, realtor, prospective
22 homebuyer, or other impacted party as a condition of sale, refinancing, or
23 transfer of title, which examination shall meet the minimum requirements
24 established by the Board.

25 (6) "On-site wastewater system" means any wastewater system permitted under
26 the provisions of Article 11 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes that
27 does not discharge to a treatment facility or the surface waters of the State.

28 (7) "Person" means all persons, including individuals, firms, partnerships,
29 associations, public or private institutions, municipalities, or political
30 subdivisions, governmental agencies, or private or public corporations
31 organized and existing under the laws of this State or any other state or
32 country.

33 (8) "Wastewater treatment facility" means a mechanical or chemical treatment
34 facility serving a site with multiple wastewater sources."

35 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 90A-72 reads as rewritten:

36 "**§ 90A-72. Certification required; applicability.**



1 (a) Certification Required. – No person shall construct, install, or repair or offer to
2 construct, install, or repair an on-site wastewater system ~~in the State as permitted under Article~~
3 11 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes without being certified as a contractor at the
4 required level of certification for the specified system. No person shall conduct an inspection or
5 offer to conduct an inspection of an on-site wastewater system as permitted under Article 11 of
6 Chapter 130A of the General Statutes without being certified ~~as an inspector at the required~~
7 ~~level of certification for the specified system in accordance with the provisions of this Article.~~

8 (b) Applicability. – This Article does not apply to the following:

- 9 (1) A person who is employed ~~by, or performs labor and services for, by~~ a
10 certified contractor or inspector in connection with the construction,
11 installation, repair, or inspection of an on-site wastewater system performed
12 under the direct and personal supervision of the certified contractor or
13 ~~inspector.~~ inspector in charge.
- 14 (2) A person who constructs, installs, or repairs an on-site wastewater system
15 described as a single septic tank with a gravity-fed ~~distribution system~~ gravel
16 trench dispersal media when located on land owned by that person and that
17 is intended solely for use by that person and members of that person's
18 immediate ~~family.~~ family when residing in the same dwelling.
- 19 (3) A person licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes who
20 constructs or installs an on-site wastewater system ancillary to the building
21 being ~~constructed.~~ constructed or who provides corrective services and labor
22 for the on-site wastewater system ancillary to the constructed building.
- 23 (4) A person who is certified by the Water Pollution Control System Operators
24 Certification Commission and contracted to provide necessary operation and
25 maintenance on the permitted on-site wastewater system.
- 26 (5) A person permitted under Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes
27 who is constructing a water pollution control facility necessary to comply
28 with the terms and conditions of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination
29 System (NPDES) permit.
- 30 (6) A person licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 87 of the General Statutes as a
31 licensed public utilities contractor who is installing or expanding a
32 wastewater treatment facility, including a collection system, designed by a
33 registered professional engineer.
- 34 (7) A plumbing contractor licensed under Article 2 of Chapter 87 of the General
35 Statutes, so long as the plumber is not performing plumbing work that
36 includes the installation or repair of a septic tank or similar depository, or
37 lines or appurtenances downstream from the point where the house or
38 building sewer lines from the plumbing system meet the septic tank or
39 similar depository."

40 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 90A-73(a) reads as rewritten:

41 "(a) Creation and Appointments. – There is created the North Carolina On-Site
42 Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board. The Board shall consist of nine
43 members appointed to three-year terms as follows:

- 44 (1) One member appointed by the Governor who, at the time of appointment, is
45 engaged in the construction, installation, repair, or inspection of on-site
46 wastewater systems, to a term that expires on 1 July of years that precede by
47 one year those years that are evenly divisible by three.
- 48 (2) One member appointed by the Governor who, at the time of appointment, is
49 ~~a certified water treatment facility operator pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter~~
50 90A of the General Statutes, engaged in the construction, installation, repair,

1 or inspection of on-site wastewater systems, to a term that expires on 1 July
 2 of years evenly divisible by three.

3 (3) One member appointed by the Governor who is an employee of the Division
 4 of Environmental Health of the Department to a term that expires on 1 July
 5 of years that follow by one year those years that are evenly divisible by
 6 three.

7 (4) One member appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
 8 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate who, at the time of appointment, is
 9 engaged in the construction, installation, repair, or inspection of on-site
 10 wastewater systems, to a term that expires on 1 July of years that follow by
 11 one year those years that are evenly divisible by three.

12 (5) One member appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
 13 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate who, at the time of appointment, is
 14 engaged in the business of inspecting on-site wastewater systems, to a term
 15 that expires on 1 July of years that precede by one year those years that are
 16 evenly divisible by three.

17 (6) One member appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
 18 the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of the
 19 North Carolina Home Builders Association, to a term that expires on 1 July
 20 of years evenly divisible by three.

21 (7) One member appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
 22 the Speaker of the House of Representatives who, at the time of
 23 appointment, is engaged in the construction, installation, repair, or
 24 inspection of on-site wastewater systems, to a term that expires on 1 July of
 25 years evenly divisible by three.

26 (8) One member appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
 27 the Speaker of the House of Representatives who, at the time of
 28 appointment, is (i) employed as an environmental health specialist, and (ii)
 29 engaged primarily in the inspection and permitting of on-site wastewater
 30 systems, to a term that expires on 1 July of years that follow by one year
 31 those years that are evenly divisible by three.

32 (9) One member appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
 33 the Speaker of the House of Representatives who, at the time of
 34 appointment, is ~~(i) employed by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension~~
 35 ~~Service, and (ii) is knowledgeable in the area of on-site wastewater~~
 36 ~~systems,~~a certified water treatment facility operator pursuant to Article 2 of
 37 Chapter 90A of the General Statutes, to a term that expires on 1 July of years
 38 that precede by one year those years that are evenly divisible by three."

39 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 90A-74(4) reads as rewritten:

40 "The Board shall have the following general powers and duties:

41 ...
 42 (4) To develop and administer examinations for ~~each grade level of~~
 43 ~~certification-specific grade levels~~ as approved by the Board. The Board may
 44 approve applications by recognized associations for certification of its
 45 members after a review of the requirements of the association to ensure that
 46 they are equivalent to the requirements of the Board.

47"

48 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 90A-76 reads as rewritten:

49 **"§ 90A-76. On-Site Wastewater Certification Fund.**

50 The On-Site Wastewater Certification Fund is created as a nonreverting account ~~within the~~
 51 ~~Department,~~ established and controlled by the Board. All fees collected pursuant to this Article

1 shall be credited to the Fund. The Fund shall be used solely for the costs of administering this
2 Article."

3 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 90A-77(a) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a) Certification. – The Board shall issue a certificate of the appropriate grade level to
5 an applicant who satisfies all of the following conditions:

- 6 (1) Is at least 18 years of age.
- 7 (2) Submits a properly completed application to the Board.
- 8 (3) ~~If the applicant has prior experience providing on-site wastewater system~~
9 ~~services, submits affidavits of three persons not related to the applicant for~~
10 ~~whom the applicant provided on-site wastewater services.~~Completes the
11 basic on-site wastewater education program approved by the Board for the
12 specified grade levels as determined by the Board.
- 13 (4) ~~If the applicant has no prior experience, completes the basic on-site~~
14 ~~wastewater education program approved by the Board.~~
- 15 (5) Completes any additional training program designed by the Board specific to
16 the grade level for which the applicant is applying.
- 17 (6) Pays the applicable fees set by the Board for the particular application and
18 grade level.
- 19 (7) For grade levels ~~greater than conventional systems,~~as determined by the
20 Board, passes a written or oral examination that tests the applicant's
21 proficiency in all of the following areas:
 - 22 a. Principles of public and environmental health associated with on-site
23 wastewater systems.
 - 24 b. Principles of construction and safety.
 - 25 c. Technical and practical knowledge of on-site wastewater systems
26 typical to the specified grade level.
 - 27 d. Laws and rules related to the installation, construction, repair, or
28 inspection of the specified on-site wastewater system."

29 **SECTION 7.** Fees held by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
30 pursuant to the On-Site Wastewater Certification Fund under G.S. 90A-76 shall be transferred
31 to the North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board in
32 accordance with G.S. 90A-76, as enacted in Section 5 of this act, on the effective date of this
33 act.

34 **SECTION 8.** This act is effective when it becomes law.