

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 189
Committee Substitute Favorable 1/10/18
Senate Agriculture/Environment/Natural Resources Committee Substitute Adopted
2/7/18

Short Title: Water Safety Act.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 27, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO ADDRESS "GENX" AND OTHER
EMERGING CONTAMINANTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO CONSULT WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES, AS WELL AS THE NORTH CAROLINA POLICY COLLABORATORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL, WHICH SHALL COORDINATE RELEVANT FACULTY EXPERTISE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM, ON THE PROCESS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTH GOALS FOR PER- AND POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES

SECTION 1. The Department of Health and Human Services shall consult with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, as well as the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which shall coordinate with faculty experts across The University of North Carolina System, including the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the Gillings Global School of Public Health of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, on the Department's process for the establishment of health goals for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances.

DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO COOPERATE WITH ANY UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT'S NPDES PERMIT PROGRAM

SECTION 2. The Department of Environmental Quality shall cooperate with any audit of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). In the event of an audit, the Department shall specifically work with the USEPA to examine the adequacy of the Department's NPDES permitting program.

REVIEW NPDES PERMIT PROGRAM

SECTION 3. The Department of Environmental Quality shall review its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting program from October 19, 1975, the date on which the Department assumed authority to implement the program under



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1 delegation from the United States Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to section 402(b)
2 of the federal Clean Water Act and 40 C.F.R. Part 123, to the effective date of this act. In
3 conducting its review, the Department shall examine:

- 4 (1) Requirements for persons applying for individual NPDES permits to fully
5 disclose in applications for new permits, permit renewals, or permit
6 modifications, all pollutants, including emerging contaminants for which an
7 applicable discharge standard has not been established under State or federal
8 law, included in their discharge.
- 9 (2) Existing processes for developing standards or limitations for emerging
10 contaminants for which an applicable discharge standard has not previously
11 been established under State or federal law, included in a permittee's
12 discharge.
- 13 (3) Internal permit review processes to ensure thorough and timely review of
14 permit applications.
- 15 (4) The time required to process all NPDES permit applications that are
16 received by the Department. The examination of processing time shall
17 include (i) the total processing time from when an initial permit application
18 is received to issuance or denial of the permit and (ii) the processing time
19 from when a complete permit application is received to issuance or denial of
20 the permit.

21 The Department shall submit a final report with findings, including any steps the
22 Department plans to take to improve the Department's implementation of the program, to the
23 House Select Committee on North Carolina River Quality, the Senate Select Committee on
24 North Carolina River Water Quality, and the Environmental Review Commission no later than
25 June 1, 2018. In accordance with Section 2 of this act, the Department shall include any
26 information related to an audit of its NPDES permitting program by the USEPA in the report.
27

28 **DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY TO COORDINATE** 29 **AND SHARE WATER QUALITY DATA WITH STATES IN THE REGION**

30 **SECTION 4.** Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by
31 adding a new section to read:

32 **"§ 143-215.1D. Coordination with neighboring states.**

33 The Department of Environmental Quality shall coordinate with the Georgia Department of
34 Natural Resources, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, the
35 Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, the Virginia Department of
36 Environmental Quality, and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to
37 improve processes for sharing information about contaminants identified in surface water or
38 groundwater shared by or passing or flowing across the border of those states and this State. As
39 needed, the Department shall share with those agencies water quality data for, and information
40 about any contaminant identified in, surface water or groundwater shared by or passing or
41 flowing across the border of those states and this State."
42

43 **GENX FUNDING/USE OF MASS SPECTROMETERS AVAILABLE IN THE** 44 **UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM**

45 **SECTION 5.** The General Assembly finds that relevant faculty expertise,
46 technology, and instrumentation, including mass spectrometers, existing throughout The
47 University of North Carolina System should be made available for the analysis of water quality
48 sampling with respect to the discharge of the poly-fluoroalkyl chemical known as "GenX"
49 (CAS registry number 62037-80-3 or 13252-13-6), and other emerging contaminants, and that
50 repurposing existing funds to facilitate these activities is an efficient utilization of State funds
51 and resources. In addition, the General Assembly finds that relevant faculty expertise,

1 technology, and instrumentation, including mass spectrometers, existing throughout The
2 University of North Carolina System should be made available for related research on
3 improved water quality sampling and analysis techniques, data interpretation, and potential
4 mitigation measures that may be necessary, with respect to the discharge of the
5 poly-fluoroalkyl chemical known as "GenX" (CAS registry number 62037-80-3 or
6 13252-13-6), and other emerging contaminants, and that repurposing existing funds to facilitate
7 these activities is an efficient utilization of State funds and resources.

8 **SECTION 6.(a)** In the event that the United States Environmental Protection
9 Agency no longer provides access to its analytical instrumentation at no cost to the State for
10 water quality sampling analysis related to the poly-fluoroalkyl chemical known as "GenX"
11 (CAS registry number 62037-80-3 or 13252-13-6), and other emerging contaminants, or if the
12 Department of Environmental Quality determines that such analysis is not being performed in a
13 sufficiently timely manner, the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory at the University of North
14 Carolina at Chapel Hill shall coordinate such analysis in the most cost-effective manner using
15 relevant faculty expertise, technology, and instrumentation, including mass spectrometers,
16 existing throughout The University of North Carolina System. The Collaboratory, in
17 consultation with the Department and relevant experts across The University of North Carolina
18 System, including the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and the Environmental
19 Sciences and Engineering Department within the Gillings Global School of Public Health of
20 the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, shall establish a protocol for delivery of such
21 samples taken by the Department to the entity designated to perform analysis of the samples,
22 chain of custody protocols, and other matters to ensure proper handling and processing of the
23 samples.

24 **SECTION 6.(b)** The North Carolina Policy Collaboratory at the University of
25 North Carolina at Chapel Hill shall identify faculty expertise within The University of North
26 Carolina System, and use technology, and instrumentation, including mass spectrometers,
27 existing throughout The University of North Carolina System, to conduct the following
28 research: (1) develop quantitative models to predict which private wells are most at risk of
29 contamination from the discharge of the poly-fluoroalkyl chemical known as "GenX" (CAS
30 registry number 62037-80-3 or 13252-13-6), and other emerging contaminants, and (2) test the
31 performance of household water filters in removing such compounds. In addition, the
32 Collaboratory may, using relevant faculty expertise, technology, and instrumentation existing
33 throughout The University of North Carolina System, evaluate other research opportunities and
34 conduct such research for improved water quality sampling and analyses techniques, data
35 interpretation, and potential mitigation measures that may be necessary, with respect to the
36 discharge of the poly-fluoroalkyl chemical known as "GenX" (CAS registry number
37 62037-80-3 or 13252-13-6), and other emerging contaminants.

38 **SECTION 6.(c)** Notwithstanding Section 27.5 of S.L. 2016-94, as amended by
39 Section 10.4 of S.L. 2017-57, the North Carolina Policy Collaboratory is authorized to use for
40 the purposes set forth in this act no more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the
41 2017-2018 fiscal year and no more than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2018-2019
42 fiscal year of the funds appropriated for the 2016-2017 fiscal year to the Office of State Budget
43 and Management, Special Appropriations, and allocated to the Board of Trustees of the
44 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for use as matching funds by the Collaboratory.
45 Funds reallocated by this section shall not revert but shall continue to be available as provided
46 in this act.

47 **SECTION 6.(d)** Notwithstanding Section 27.5 of S.L. 2016-94, as amended by
48 Section 10.4 of S.L. 2017-57, no match is required for funds reallocated by this section.
49

50 FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1 **SECTION 7.(a)** The sum of two million four hundred thousand dollars
 2 (\$2,400,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year shall be appropriated from the
 3 unappropriated balance remaining in the General Fund to the Department of Environmental
 4 Quality to implement this act. The Department of Environmental Quality shall report no later
 5 than June 1, 2018, and quarterly thereafter, to the Joint Legislative Committee on
 6 Governmental Operations on how funds appropriated under this section will be and are being
 7 used.

8 **SECTION 7.(b)** Section 2.1 of S.L. 2017-57, as amended by Section 1.1 of S.L.
 9 2017-197, reads as rewritten:

10 **"SECTION 2.1.** Appropriations from the General Fund of the State for the maintenance of
 11 the State departments, institutions, and agencies, and for other purposes as enumerated, are
 12 made for the fiscal biennium ending June 30, 2019, according to the following schedule:

Current Operations – General Fund	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
13 ...		
14 NATURAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES		
15 ...		
16 Department of Environmental Quality	78,170,32780,570,327	77,012,714
17 ...		
18 TOTAL CURRENT OPERATIONS –		
19 GENERAL FUND	\$ 22,980,769,893	\$ 23,650,253,958"
20	<u>22,983,169,893</u>	

21 **SECTION 7.(c)** Section 2.2(a) of S.L. 2017-57 reads as rewritten:

22 **"SECTION 2.2.(a)** The General Fund availability used in developing the 2017-2019 fiscal
 23 biennial budget is shown below:

	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
24 Unappropriated Balance	\$ 208,607,416	\$ 499,303,328496,903,328
25 ...		
26 Revised Unappropriated Balance	108,607,416	<u>499,303,328496,903,328</u>
27 ...		
28 Beginning Unreserved Fund Balance	471,279,046	<u>499,303,328496,903,328</u>
29 ...		
30 Total General Fund Availability	23,623,979,046	<u>24,634,803,32824,632,403,328</u>
31 ...		
32 Revised General Fund Availability	\$ 23,529,781,221	<u>\$ 24,022,005,28324,019,605,283</u>
33		
34 Less General Fund Net		
35 Appropriations	(23,030,477,893)(23,032,877,893)	(23,652,171,951)
36		
37 Unappropriated Balance		
38 Remaining	\$ 499,303,328496,903,328	<u>\$ 369,833,332367,433,332"</u>

39 **SECTION 7.(d)** Nonrecurring funds appropriated by this act for the 2017-2018
 40 fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for nonrecurring expenses through June
 41 30, 2019.

42 **EFFECTIVE DATE**

43 **SECTION 8.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
 44 law.
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