

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 1479*
Committee Substitute Favorable 7/1/98
Third Edition Engrossed 7/8/98

Short Title: Study Lagoon Phase Out Implementation.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 25, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

1 Department may (i) find if phasing out anaerobic lagoons and sprayfields as the primary
2 methods of disposing of swine waste is economically feasible and develop
3 recommendations for implementing the phaseout of anaerobic lagoons and sprayfields as
4 the primary methods of disposing of swine waste, (ii) identify recommended
5 environmental and public health performance-based criteria and standards for alternative
6 animal waste management technologies, (iii) recommend a process to identify the best
7 available technologies to meet these performance-based criteria and standards, (iv)
8 recommend a process for the phaseout of existing lagoons and the replacement of those
9 lagoons with alternative technologies, and (v) identify if public and private funds are
10 available as funding alternatives to ensure that the phaseout is done in an economically
11 feasible manner. The Department shall report its findings and recommendations,
12 including any legislative proposals, to the Environmental Review Commission in an
13 interim report no later than December 1, 1998, and a final report no later than May 1,
14 1999.

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