

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1378
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/6/09

Short Title: Clean Marinas/Pumpout Stations.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 13, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF CERTAIN MARINAS SHALL INSTALL AND MAINTAIN PUMPOUT FACILITIES BY JULY 1, 2010, TO PROHIBIT THE DISCHARGE OF EFFLUENT FROM A VESSEL INTO CERTAIN COASTAL WATERS, TO REQUIRE THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF ANY MARINA WHO KNOWS THAT A VESSEL DOCKED AT THE MARINA HAS UNLAWFULLY DISCHARGED SEWAGE INTO COASTAL WATERS TO REPORT THE UNLAWFUL DISCHARGE TO THE APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, TO REQUIRE VESSEL OWNERS AND OPERATORS TO KEEP A LOG REGARDING THE DATE AND LOCATION OF PUMPOUTS, AND TO PROVIDE THAT A PILOT PROGRAM IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY SHALL BE DESIGNED AND IMPLEMENTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO BEGIN PHASING IN THE PUMPOUT STATION REQUIREMENTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 77 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 9.

"Clean Coastal Water and Vessel Act.

"§ 77-125. Definitions.

The following definitions apply in this Article:

- (1) Department. – Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
- (2) Marina. – A marina that has docking facilities and has more than 10 wet slips for vessels of 25 feet or more that have marine sanitation devices. The term includes privately and publicly owned marinas and anchorages.
- (3) Pumpout facility. – The term includes stations affixed permanently to a dock, mobile stations mounted to a golf cart or hand truck, direct slipside connections, and pumpout vessels.
- (4) Vessel. – As defined in G.S. 75A-2.

"§ 77-126. Marina pumpout facilities and services required in certain areas; marinas and local government may apply for grant funds.

(a) The owner or operator, as appropriate, of any marina that is located on coastal waters designated as a no discharge zone by the Environmental Protection Agency or that is located in a county or municipality that has adopted a resolution to petition the Environmental Protection Agency for a no discharge zone designation shall either (i) install and maintain an operational pumpout facility at the marina that is available to customers patronizing the marina,



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1 or (ii) contract with an outside service provider to provide pumpout services on a regular basis
2 to the marina.

3 (b) The owner or operator, as appropriate, of a marina may apply for any private, State,
4 or federal grant funds that are available for the purpose of assisting with the cost of installing a
5 pumpout facility. A county or municipality may also apply for any private, State, or federal
6 grant funds that are available for the purpose of assisting with the cost of installing a pumpout
7 facility.

8 **"§ 77-127. Department of Environment and Natural Resources establish pumpout facility**
9 **criteria; inspection of pumpout facilities and vessels docked or moored at a**
10 **marina.**

11 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall establish appropriate criteria
12 for marina pumpout facilities and pumpout services. The criteria shall include requirements that
13 the facility or services be available to the public, the pumpout facility be open during normal
14 hours, and the pumpout facility be used for its intended purpose. The criteria shall also include
15 a requirement that the marina maintain records regarding the pumpout facility or services. The
16 Department shall also develop guidelines for inspections of marina pumpout facilities and of
17 vessels that are docked or moored at a marina.

18 **"§ 77-128. Vessel owner and operator required to keep log of pumpout dates.**

19 (a) Any owner or operator of a vessel that has a marine sanitation device shall maintain
20 a record of the date of each pumpout of the marine sanitation device and the location of the
21 pumpout facility. Each record shall be maintained for a period of one year from the date of the
22 pumpout.

23 (b) A violation of this section is punishable as a Class 3 misdemeanor. No civil penalty
24 shall be assessed under G.S. 77-130 for a violation of this section.

25 **"§ 77-129. No discharge of treated or untreated sewage in coastal waters; duty of marina**
26 **owner or operator to report unlawful discharge.**

27 (a) The owner or operator of a vessel shall not discharge treated or untreated sewage,
28 including effluent produced or held by any type of marine sanitation device into coastal waters.
29 The owner or operator of a vessel shall keep the overboard waste discharge valves locked at all
30 times, except when lawfully discharging sewage, including effluent produced or held by a
31 marine sanitation device at a pumpout facility.

32 (b) A violation of this section is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor and may also be
33 assessed a civil penalty pursuant to G.S. 77-130.

34 (c) If the owner or operator of a marina knows that the owner or operator of any vessel
35 docked or moored at the marina knowingly and unlawfully discharged sewage, including
36 effluent produced or held by a marine sanitation device, in coastal waters in violation of this
37 section, then the marina owner or operator shall report the unlawful discharge to the
38 appropriate law enforcement agency. A marina owner or operator who fails to report an
39 unlawful discharge pursuant to this subsection may be assessed a civil penalty pursuant to
40 G.S. 77-130.

41 **"§ 77-130. Enforcement.**

42 (a) The following officers have authority to enforce this Article and to inspect a marina
43 or vessel subject to this Article:

44 (1) Wildlife protectors.

45 (2) Marine fisheries inspectors.

46 (3) Any sworn local law enforcement officer with jurisdiction to enforce the
47 laws in the county or municipality in which the marina or vessel is located.

48 (b) Unless provided otherwise by this Article, a civil penalty of not more than ten
49 thousand dollars (\$10,000) may be assessed by the Secretary of Environment and Natural
50 Resources against the owner or operator, as appropriate, of any marina that violates this Article.
51 If any action or failure for which a penalty may be assessed under this section is continuous, the

1 Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources may assess a penalty not to exceed ten
2 thousand dollars (\$10,000) per day for so long as the violation continues.

3 (c) Unless provided otherwise by this Article, a civil penalty of not more than ten
4 thousand dollars (\$10,000) may be assessed by the Secretary of Environment and Natural
5 Resources against any owner or operator, as appropriate, of a vessel that violates this Article. If
6 any action or failure for which a penalty may be assessed under this section is continuous, the
7 Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources may assess a penalty not to exceed ten
8 thousand dollars (\$10,000) per day for so long as the violation continues.

9 **"§ 77-131. Application of Article.**

10 The provisions of this Article apply only to the following:

- 11 (1) A marina that is located on coastal waters designated by the Environmental
12 Protection Agency as a no discharge zone or that is located in a county or
13 municipality that has adopted a resolution to petition the Environmental
14 Protection Agency for a no discharge zone designation.
15 (2) A vessel in coastal waters that are either designated as a no discharge zone
16 or are included in a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency to be
17 designated as a no discharge zone unless the petition has been denied by the
18 Environmental Protection Agency.

19 **"§ 77-132. Rule-making authority.**

20 The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall adopt rules to implement this
21 Article."

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 113A-253(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

23 "(8b) To purchase or install a pumpout facility as defined in G.S. 77-125 for the
24 purpose of protecting the State's water quality by decreasing effluent
25 discharges into the State's waters as defined in G.S. 143-212."

26 **SECTION 3.** The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall design
27 and implement a pilot program in New Hanover County to begin phasing in the requirements of
28 Section 1 of this act. The Department shall report to the Environmental Review Commission
29 by October 1, 2009, regarding the design of the pilot program and shall implement the pilot
30 program no later than January 1, 2010. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources
31 shall report to the Environmental Review Commission by March 1, 2010, regarding the
32 implementation of the pilot project.

33 **SECTION 4.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2010. The remainder
34 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2009.