

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 1378  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/6/09  
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/11/09

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) Large vessel 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 large vessel 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



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1 maintain an operational pumpout facility at the marina that is available to customers  
2 patronizing the marina or (ii) contract with an outside service provider to provide pumpout  
3 services on a regular basis to the marina.

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

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

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

19 **"§ 77-128. Vessel owner and operator required to keep log of pumpout dates.**

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

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

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

28 (a) No person shall discharge treated or untreated sewage, including effluent produced  
29 or held by any type of marine sanitation device into coastal waters. The owner or operator of a  
30 vessel shall keep the overboard waste discharge valves locked at all times, except when  
31 lawfully discharging sewage, including effluent produced or held by a marine sanitation device  
32 at a pumpout facility.

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

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

42 **"§ 77-130. Enforcement.**

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

45 (1) Wildlife protectors.

46 (2) Marine fisheries inspectors.

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

49 (4) United States Coast Guard personnel.

50 (b) Officers enforcing the provisions of this Article shall report violations to the  
51 Department.

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

7 **"§ 77-131. Application of Article.**

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

9 (1) A large vessel marina that is located on coastal waters designated by the  
10 Environmental Protection Agency as a no discharge zone or that is located in  
11 a county or municipality that has adopted a resolution to petition the  
12 Environmental Protection Agency for a no discharge zone designation.

13 (2) A vessel in coastal waters that are either designated as a no discharge zone  
14 or are included in a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency to be  
15 designated as a no discharge zone unless the petition has been denied by the  
16 Environmental Protection Agency.

17 **"§ 77-132. Rule-making authority.**

18 The Department shall adopt rules to implement this Article."

19 **SECTION 2.** The Division of Coastal Management of the Department of  
20 Environment and Natural Resources shall design and implement a pilot program in New  
21 Hanover County to begin phasing in the requirements of Section 1 of this act. The Department  
22 shall report to the Environmental Review Commission by December 1, 2009, regarding the  
23 design of the pilot program and shall implement the pilot program no later than January 1,  
24 2010. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall report to the  
25 Environmental Review Commission by March 1, 2010, regarding the implementation of the  
26 pilot project.

27 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2010. The remainder  
28 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2009.