

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 588

Short Title: Fast-Track Nondischarge Permitting. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Gunn and McInnis (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 4, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH FAST-TRACK PERMITTING FOR NONDISCHARGE PERMITS.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 SECTION 1. Article 21 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
5 a new section to read:

6 "§ 143-215.1B. Fast-track for nondischarge permitting.

7 (a) The Commission shall adopt rules to establish a fast-track permitting process that
8 allows for the issuance of nondischarge permits without a technical review when the permit
9 applicant submits a permit application prepared by a qualified professional. In developing the
10 rules, the Commission shall consult with a technical working group that consists of industry
11 experts, engineers, environmental consultants, and other interested stakeholders. The rules shall,
12 at a minimum, provide for all of the following:

13 (1) A process and time line for permit application, review, and determination,
14 including time lines for a pre-submittal meeting, limited requests for
15 additional information, and an application completeness determination.

16 (2) The types of professionals that are qualified to prepare a permit application
17 submitted pursuant to this section and the types of qualifications such
18 professionals must have.

19 (3) That permits issued pursuant to the fast-track permitting process comply with
20 State water quality standards adopted pursuant to this Article.

21 (4) A process for establishing the liability of a qualified professional who prepares
22 a permit application for a nondischarge permit that fails to meet the
23 requirements of this Article and rules adopted pursuant to this Article.

24 (b) The Department may charge a fast-track permitting fee that is not more than twice the
25 application fee that would otherwise be charged under G.S. 143-215.3D."

26 SECTION 2. The Environmental Management Commission shall adopt rules
27 implementing Section 1 of this act no later than July 1, 2021.

28 SECTION 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.

