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SENATE BILL NO. 1137

Offered January 8, 2003

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-1454.1 of the Code of Virginia, and to repeal § 10.1-1454.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to transportation of waste on state waters.

Patron—Stolle

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 10.1-1454.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 10.1-1454.1. Regulation of wastes transported by water.

A. The Board shall develop regulations governing the commercial transport, loading and off-loading of nonhazardous solid waste (except scrap metal, dredged material and source-separated recyclables), municipal and industrial sludge, and regulated medical waste by ship, barge or other vessel upon the navigable waters of the Commonwealth as are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth and to protect the Commonwealth's environment and natural resources from pollution, impairment or destruction. Included in the regulations shall be provisions governing (i) the issuance of permits by rule to facilities receiving nonhazardous solid waste (except scrap metal, dredged material and source-separated recyclables), municipal and industrial sludge, and regulated medical waste from a ship, barge or other vessel transporting such wastes upon the navigable waters of the Commonwealth and (ii) to the extent allowable under federal law and regulation, the commercial transport of nonhazardous solid wastes (except scrap metal, dredged material and source-separated recyclables), municipal and industrial sludge, and regulated medical waste upon the navigable waters of the Commonwealth and the loading and off-loading of ships, barges and other vessels transporting such waste. Also included in the regulations shall be requirements, to the extent allowable under federal law, that: (a) containers holding wastes be watertight and be designed, constructed, secured and maintained so as to prevent the escape of wastes, liquids and odors and to prevent the loss or spillage of wastes in the event of an accident; (b) containers be tested at least two 2 times a year and be accompanied by a certification from the container owner that such testing has shown that the containers are watertight; (c) each container be listed on a manifest designed to assure that the waste being transported in each container is suitable for the destination facility; and (d) containers be stacked no more than two high on barges, and be secured to the barges to prevent accidents during transportation, loading and unloading.

B. A facility utilized to receive nonhazardous solid waste (except scrap metal, dredged material and source-separated recyclables), municipal and industrial sludge, or regulated medical waste from a ship, barge or other vessel regulated pursuant to subsection A, arriving at the facility upon the navigable waters of the Commonwealth, is a solid waste management facility and is subject to the requirements of this chapter. On and after the effective date of the regulations promulgated under subsection A, no new or existing facilities shall receive any wastes regulated under subsection A from a ship, barge or other vessel without a permit issued in accordance with the Board's regulations. No facility shall receive wastes regulated under subsection A by ship, barge or other vessel prior to the effective date of the regulations promulgated pursuant to subsection A.

C. 1. The Board shall, by regulation, establish a fee, payable by the owner or operator of any ship, barge or other vessel carrying, loading or off-loading waste regulated under this article on the navigable waters of the Commonwealth, sufficient to recover for the purpose of funding the administrative and enforcement costs of this article associated with such operations including, but not limited to, the inspection and monitoring of such ships, barges or other vessels to ensure compliance with this article, and for funding activities authorized by this section to abate pollution caused by barging of waste, to improve water quality, or for other environmental improvement purposes. Such fee shall be assessed in the manner prescribed by the Board.

2. The owner or operator of a facility permitted to receive wastes regulated under this article from a ship, barge or other vessel shall be assessed a permit fee in accordance with the criteria set forth in § 10.1-1402.1. However, such fees shall also include an additional amount to cover the Department's costs for facility inspections that it shall conduct on at least a quarterly basis.

3. The fees collected pursuant to this article shall be deposited into a separate account within the Virginia Waste Management Board Permit Program Fund (§ 10.1-1402.2) and shall be treated as are other moneys in that fund except that they shall only be used for the purposes of this article, and for funding purposes authorized by this article to abate pollution caused by barging of waste, to improve

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59 *water quality, or for other environmental improvement purposes.*

60 D. The Board shall promulgate regulations requiring owners and operators of ships, barges and other  
61 vessels transporting wastes regulated under this article to demonstrate financial responsibility sufficient  
62 to comply with the requirements of this article as a condition of operation. Regulations governing the  
63 amount of any financial responsibility required shall take into consideration: (i) the risk of potential  
64 damage or injury to state waters and the impairment of beneficial uses that may result from spillage or  
65 leakage from the ship, barge or vessel; (ii) the potential costs of containment and cleanup; and (iii) the  
66 nature and degree of injury or interference with general health, welfare and property that may result.

67 E. The owner or operator of a ship, barge or other vessel from which there is spillage or loss to state  
68 waters of wastes subject to regulations under this article shall immediately report such spillage or loss in  
69 accordance with the regulations of the Board and shall immediately take all such actions as may be  
70 necessary to contain and remove such wastes from state waters.

71 F. No person shall transport wastes regulated under this article on the navigable waters of the  
72 Commonwealth by ship, barge or other vessel unless such ship, barge or vessel and the containers  
73 carried thereon are designed, constructed, loaded, operated and maintained so as to prevent the escape of  
74 liquids, waste and odors and to prevent the loss or spillage of waste in the event of an accident. A  
75 violation of this subsection shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor. For the purposes of this subsection, the  
76 term "odors" means any emissions ~~which~~ *that* cause an odor objectionable to individuals of ordinary  
77 sensibility.

78 **2. That § 10.1-1454.2 of the Code of Virginia is repealed.**