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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2726**

Offered January 18, 2001

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 32.1-163.5 of the Code of Virginia, relating to on-site sewage evaluations.*

Patron—Black

Referred to Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 32.1-163.5 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 32.1-163.5. On-site sewage evaluations.

A. Notwithstanding other provisions of this chapter, for purposes of subdivision review, permit approval, and issuance of letters for residential development, the Board, Commissioner, and Department of Health, and any county, city or town in the administration of its own ordinances shall accept private site evaluations and designs, in compliance with the Board's regulations for septic systems and other on-site sewage systems, designed and certified by a licensed professional engineer, in consultation with an authorized on-site soil evaluator, or by an authorized on-site soil evaluator. The evaluations and designs included within such submissions shall be certified as complying with the Board's regulations implementing this chapter.

B. The Department shall not be required to perform a field check of private evaluations and designs prior to issuing the requested letter, permit or approval; however, the Department may conduct such review of the work and field analysis as deemed necessary to protect the public health and integrity of the Commonwealth's environment. Within fifteen working days from the date of written submission of a request for approval of a site evaluation and design for a single lot construction permit, and within sixty days from the date of written submission of a request for approval of a site evaluation and design for multiple lot certification letters or subdivision review, the Department shall (i) issue the requested letter, permit or approval or (ii) set forth in writing the specific reasons for denial. If the Department fails to take action to approve or disapprove the designs, evaluations, or subdivision reviews within the time specified herein, the designs, evaluations or subdivision reviews shall be deemed approved and the appropriate letter, permit or approval shall be issued.

C. Nothing in this section shall authorize anyone other than an individual licensed as a professional engineer pursuant to Chapter 4 (§ 54.1-400 et seq.) of Title 54.1 to engage in the practice of engineering.

D. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any locality that has entered into a contract with the Board of Health in accordance with Chapter 678 of the 1994 Acts of Assembly nor to a proprietary, pre-engineered septic system deemed by the Department to comply with the Board's regulations.

INTRODUCED

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