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**HOUSE BILL NO. 1971**

Offered January 12, 2005

Prefiled January 10, 2005

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 62.1-44.17:1.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to phosphorus application rates for poultry waste.*

Patrons—Cox, Abbitt, Cline, Landes, Louderback, McQuigg, Orrock, Saxman, Scott, E.T., Stump, Weatherholtz and Wright; Senators: Hanger and Obenshain

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:****1. That § 62.1-44.17:1.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 62.1-44.17:1.1. Poultry waste management program.

A. As used in this section, unless the context requires a different meaning:

"Commercial poultry processor" means any animal food manufacturer, as defined in § 3.1-884.18, that contracts with poultry growers for the raising of poultry.

"Confined poultry feeding operation" means any confined animal feeding operation with 200 or more animal units of poultry.

"Nutrient management plan" means a plan developed or approved by the Department of Conservation and Recreation that requires proper storage, treatment and management of poultry waste, including dry litter, and limits accumulation of excess nutrients in soils and leaching or discharge of nutrients into state waters.

"Poultry grower" means any person who owns or operates a confined poultry feeding operation.

B. The Board shall develop a regulatory program governing the storage, treatment and management of poultry waste, including dry litter, that:

1. Requires the development and implementation of nutrient management plans for any person owning or operating a confined poultry feeding operation;

2. Provides for waste tracking and accounting; and

3. Ensures proper storage of waste consistent with the terms and provisions of a nutrient management plan.

C. The program shall include, at a minimum:

1. Provisions for permitting confined poultry feeding operations under a general permit; however, the Board may require an individual permit upon determining that an operation is in violation of the program developed under this section;

2. Provisions requiring that:

a. Nitrogen application rates contained in nutrient management plans developed pursuant to this section shall not exceed crop nutrient needs as determined by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The application of poultry waste shall be managed to minimize runoff, leaching, and volatilization losses, and reduce adverse water quality impacts from nitrogen;

b. For all nutrient management plans developed pursuant to this section after October 1, 2001, phosphorus application rates shall not exceed the greater of crop nutrient needs or crop nutrient removal, as determined by the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The application of poultry waste shall be managed to minimize runoff and leaching and reduce adverse water quality impacts from phosphorous;

c. By December 31, 2005, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality, shall (i) complete an examination of current developments in scientific research and technology that shall include a review of land application of poultry waste, soil nutrient retention capacity, and water quality degradation and (ii) adopt and implement regulatory or other changes, if any, to its nutrient management plan program that it concludes are appropriate as a result of this examination; and

d. For all nutrient management plans developed pursuant to this section after December 31, 2005, ~~and not prior thereto, Notwithstanding subdivision 2 b, upon the effective date of the Department of Conservation and Recreation's revised regulatory criteria and standards governing phosphorous application rates adopted pursuant to subdivision 2 c, or on October 31, 2005, whichever is later, phosphorous application rates for all nutrient management plans developed pursuant to this section shall conform solely to the provisions of subdivision 2 b of this subsection and shall be in accordance with other such regulatory criteria and standards, if any, amended or adopted by the Department of Conservation and Recreation pursuant to subdivision 2 e of this subsection to protect water quality or to~~

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HB1971

58 reduce soil concentrations of phosphorous or phosphorous loadings. The application of poultry waste  
59 shall be managed to minimize runoff and leaching and reduce adverse water quality impacts from  
60 phosphorous.

61 D. The program shall reflect Board consideration of existing state-approved nutrient management  
62 plans and existing general permit programs for other confined animal feeding operations, and may  
63 include such other provisions as the Board determines appropriate for the protection of state waters.

64 E. After October 1, 2001, all persons owning or operating a confined poultry feeding operation shall  
65 operate in compliance with the provisions of this section and any regulations promulgated thereunder.

66 F. Any person violating this section shall be subject only to the provisions of §§ 62.1-44.23 and  
67 62.1-44.32 (a), except that any civil penalty shall not exceed \$2,500 for any confined animal feeding  
68 operation covered by a Virginia Pollution Abatement permit.

69 G. On or before January 1, 2000, or prior to commencing operations, each commercial poultry  
70 processor operating in the Commonwealth shall file with the Board a plan under which the processor,  
71 either directly or under contract with a third party, shall:

72 1. Provide technical assistance to the poultry growers with whom it contracts on the proper  
73 management and storage of poultry waste in accordance with best management practices;

74 2. Provide education programs on poultry waste nutrient management for the poultry growers with  
75 whom it contracts as well as for poultry litter brokers and persons utilizing poultry waste;

76 3. Provide a toll-free hotline and advertising program to assist poultry growers with excess amounts  
77 of poultry waste to make available such waste to persons in other areas who can use such waste as a  
78 fertilizer consistent with the provisions of subdivision C 2 or for other alternative purposes;

79 4. Participate in the development of a poultry waste transportation and alternative use equal matching  
80 grant program between the Commonwealth and commercial poultry processors to (i) facilitate the  
81 transportation of excess poultry waste in the possession of poultry growers with whom it contracts to  
82 persons in other areas who can use such waste as a fertilizer consistent with the provisions of  
83 subdivision C 2 or for other alternative purposes and (ii) encourage alternative uses to land application  
84 of poultry waste;

85 5. Conduct research on the reduction of phosphorus in poultry waste, innovative best management  
86 practices for poultry waste, water quality issues concerning poultry waste, or alternative uses of poultry  
87 waste; and

88 6. Conduct research on and consider implementation of nutrient reduction strategies in the  
89 formulation of feed. Such nutrient reduction strategies may include the addition of phytase or other feed  
90 additives or modifications to reduce nutrients in poultry waste.

91 H. Any amendments to the plan required by subsection G shall be filed with the Board before they  
92 are implemented. After January 1, 2000, each commercial poultry processor shall implement its plan and  
93 any amendments thereto. Each commercial poultry processor shall report annually to the Board on the  
94 activities it has undertaken pursuant to its plan and any amendments thereto. Failure to comply with the  
95 provisions of this section or to implement and follow a filed plan or any amendments thereto shall  
96 constitute a violation of this section.