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**HOUSE BILL NO. 2107****AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**

(Proposed by the House Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources  
on January 29, 1997)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Deeds)

*A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 9-6.14:4.1 and 28.2-1207 of the Code of Virginia and amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 a section numbered 62.1-44.15:5.1, relating to general permits.*

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

**1. That §§ 9-6.14:4.1 and 28.2-1207 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted and that the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 2 of Chapter 3.1 of Title 62.1 a section numbered 62.1-44.15:5.1 as follows:**

§ 9-6.14:4.1. Exemptions and exclusions.

A. Although required to comply with § 9-6.18 of the Virginia Register Act (§ 9-6.15 et seq.), the following agencies are exempted from the provisions of this chapter, except to the extent that they are specifically made subject to §§ 9-6.14:14.1, 9-6.14:21 and 9-6.14:22:

1. The General Assembly.

2. Courts, any agency of the Supreme Court, and any agency which by the Constitution is expressly granted any of the powers of a court of record.

3. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries in promulgating regulations regarding the management of wildlife and for all case decisions rendered pursuant to any provisions of Chapters 2 (§ 29.1-200 et seq.), 3 (§ 29.1-300 et seq.), 4 (§ 29.1-400 et seq.), 5 (§ 29.1-500 et seq.), and 7 (§ 29.1-700 et seq.) of Title 29.1.

4. The Virginia Housing Development Authority.

5. Municipal corporations, counties, and all local, regional or multijurisdictional authorities created under this Code, including those with federal authorities.

6. Educational institutions operated by the Commonwealth provided that, with respect to § 9-6.14:22, such educational institutions shall be exempt from the publication requirements only with respect to regulations which pertain to (i) their academic affairs; (ii) the selection, tenure, promotion and disciplining of faculty and employees; (iii) the selection of students; and (iv) rules of conduct and disciplining of students.

7. The Milk Commission in promulgating regulations regarding (i) producers' license and base, (ii) classification and allocation of milk, computation of sales and shrinkage, and (iii) class prices for producers' milk, time and method of payment, butterfat testing and differential.

8. The Virginia Resources Authority.

9. Agencies expressly exempted by any other provision of this Code.

10. The Virginia Voluntary Formulary Board in formulating recommendations regarding amendments to the Formulary pursuant to § 32.1-81.

11. The Council on Information Management.

12. The Department of General Services in promulgating standards for the inspection of buildings for asbestos pursuant to § 2.1-526.14.

13, 14. [Repealed.]

15. The State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, in developing, issuing, and revising guidelines pursuant to § 23-9.6:2.

16. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services in adopting regulations pursuant to subsection B of § 3.1-726.

17. The Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services in promulgating regulations pursuant to subsections B and C of § 3.1-106.4, subsection B of § 3.1-126.12:1, § 3.1-271.1, § 3.1-398, subsections B and C of § 3.1-828.4, and subsection A of § 3.1-884.21:1.

18. The Board of Optometry when specifying therapeutic pharmaceutical agents, treatment guidelines, and diseases and abnormal conditions of the human eye and its adnexa for TPA-certification of optometrists pursuant to Article 5 (§ 54.1-3222 et seq.) of Chapter 32 of Title 54.1.

19. The Board of Medicine, in consultation with the Board of Pharmacy, when promulgating amendments to the Physician's Assistant Formulary established pursuant to § 54.1-2952.1.

20. The Boards of Medicine and Nursing in promulgating amendments to the Nurse Practitioner Formulary established pursuant to § 54.1-2957.01.

21. The Virginia War Memorial Foundation.

22. The Virginia Medicaid Prior Authorization Advisory Committee in making recommendations to

60 the Board of Medical Assistance Services regarding prior authorization for prescription drug coverage  
61 pursuant to Article 4 (§ 32.1-331.12 et seq.) of Chapter 10 of Title 32.1.

62 23. The State Board of Education, in developing, issuing, and revising guidelines pursuant to  
63 § 22.1-280.3.

64 24. The Virginia Student Assistance Authorities.

65 25. The Virginia Racing Commission, when acting by and through its duly appointed stewards or in  
66 matters related to any specific race meeting.

67 26. The Virginia Small Business Financing Authority.

68 27. The Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority.

69 28. The Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services in adopting, amending or repealing regulations  
70 pursuant to clause A (ii) of § 59.1-156.

71 B. Agency action relating to the following subjects is exempted from the provisions of this chapter:

72 1. Money or damage claims against the Commonwealth or agencies thereof.

73 2. The award or denial of state contracts, as well as decisions regarding compliance therewith.

74 3. The location, design, specifications or construction of public buildings or other facilities.

75 4. Grants of state or federal funds or property.

76 5. The chartering of corporations.

77 6. Customary military, naval or police functions.

78 7. The selection, tenure, dismissal, direction or control of any officer or employee of an agency of  
79 the Commonwealth.

80 8. The conduct of elections or eligibility to vote.

81 9. Inmates of prisons or other such facilities or parolees therefrom.

82 10. The custody of persons in, or sought to be placed in, mental, penal or other state institutions as  
83 well as the treatment, supervision, or discharge of such persons.

84 11. Traffic signs, markers or control devices.

85 12. Instructions for application or renewal of a license, certificate, or registration required by law.

86 13. Content of, or rules for the conduct of, any examination required by law.

87 14. The administration of a pool or pools authorized by Article 7.1 (§ 2.1-234.9:1 et seq.) of Chapter  
88 14 of Title 2.1.

89 15. Any rules for the conduct of specific lottery games, so long as such rules are not inconsistent  
90 with duly adopted regulations of the State Lottery Board, and provided that such regulations are  
91 published and posted.

92 16. Orders condemning or closing any shellfish, finfish, or crustacea growing area and the shellfish,  
93 finfish or crustacea located thereon pursuant to Article 2 (§ 28.2-803 et seq.) of Chapter 8 of Title 28.2.

94 17. Any operating procedures for review of child deaths developed by the State Child Fatality  
95 Review Team pursuant to § 32.1-283.1.

96 C. The following agency actions otherwise subject to this chapter and § 9-6.18 of the Virginia  
97 Register Act are excluded from the operation of Article 2 (§ 9-6.14:7.1 et seq.) of this chapter:

98 1. Agency orders or regulations fixing rates or prices.

99 2. Regulations which establish or prescribe agency organization, internal practice or procedures,  
100 including delegations of authority.

101 3. Regulations which consist only of changes in style or form or corrections of technical errors. Each  
102 promulgating agency shall review all references to sections of the Code of Virginia within their  
103 regulations each time a new supplement or replacement volume to the Code of Virginia is published to  
104 ensure the accuracy of each section or section subdivision identification listed.

105 4. Regulations which:

106 (a) Are necessary to conform to changes in Virginia statutory law or the appropriation act where no  
107 agency discretion is involved;

108 (b) Are required by order of any state or federal court of competent jurisdiction where no agency  
109 discretion is involved; or

110 (c) Are necessary to meet the requirements of federal law or regulations, provided such regulations  
111 do not differ materially from those required by federal law or regulation, and the Registrar has so  
112 determined in writing; notice of the proposed adoption of these regulations and the Registrar's above  
113 determination shall be published in the Virginia Register not less than thirty days prior to the effective  
114 date thereof.

115 5. Regulations which an agency finds are necessitated by an emergency situation. For the purposes of  
116 this subdivision, "emergency situation" means (i) a situation involving an imminent threat to public  
117 health or safety or (ii) a situation in which Virginia statutory law or the appropriation act or federal law  
118 or federal regulation requires that a regulation shall be effective in 280 days or less from enactment of  
119 the law or the appropriation act or the effective date of the federal regulation, and the regulation is not  
120 exempt under the provisions of subdivision C 4 of this section. In such cases, the agency shall state in  
121 writing the nature of the emergency and of the necessity for such action and may adopt such

regulations. Pursuant to § 9-6.14:9, such regulations shall become effective upon approval by the Governor and filing with the Registrar of Regulations. Such regulations shall be limited to no more than twelve months in duration. During the twelve-month period, an agency may issue additional emergency regulations as needed addressing the subject matter of the initial emergency regulation, but any such additional emergency regulations shall not be effective beyond the twelve-month period from the effective date of the initial emergency regulation. If the agency wishes to continue regulating the subject matter governed by the emergency regulation beyond the twelve-month limitation, a regulation to replace the emergency regulation shall be promulgated in accordance with Article 2 (§ 9-6.14:7.1 et seq.) of this chapter. The Notice of Intended Regulatory Action to promulgate a replacement regulation shall be published within sixty days of the effective date of the emergency regulation, and the proposed replacement regulation shall be published within 180 days after the effective date of the emergency regulation.

6. [Repealed.]

7. Preliminary program permit fees of the Department of Environmental Quality assessed pursuant to subsection C of § 10.1-1322.2.

8. Regulations of the Pesticide Control Board adopted pursuant to subsection B of § 3.1-249.51 or clause (v) or (vi) of subsection C of § 3.1-249.53 after having been considered at two or more Board meetings and one public hearing.

9. Regulations of the regulatory boards served by the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation pursuant to Title 54.1 which are limited to reducing fees charged to regulants and applicants.

10. The development and issuance of procedural policy relating to risk-based mine inspections by the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy authorized pursuant to § 45.1-161.82.

11. General permits issued by the State Air Pollution Control Board pursuant to Chapter 13 (§ 10.1-1300 et seq.), of Title 10.1 if the Board: (i) provides a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action in conformance with the provisions of subsection B of § 9-6.14:7.1, (ii) following the passage of thirty days from the publication of the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action forms a technical advisory committee composed of relevant stakeholders, including potentially affected citizens groups, to assist in the development of the general permit, (iii) provides notice and receives oral and written comment as provided in subsection F of § 9-6.14:7.1, and (iv) conducts at least one public hearing on the proposed general permit.

12. General permits issued by the State Water Control Board pursuant to the State Water Control Law (§ 62.1-44.2 et seq.), Chapter 24 (§ 62.1-242 et seq.) of Title 62.1 and Chapter 25 (§ 62.1-254 et seq.) of Title 62.1 if the Board: (i) provides a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action in conformance with the provisions of subsection B of § 9-6.14:7.1, (ii) following the passage of thirty days from the publication of the Notice of Intended Regulatory Action forms a technical advisory committee composed of relevant stakeholders, including potentially affected citizens groups, to assist in the development of the general permit, (iii) provides notice and receives oral and written comment as provided in subsection F of § 9-6.14:7.1, and (iv) conducts at least one public hearing on the proposed general permit.

Whenever regulations are adopted under this subsection C, the agency shall state as part thereof that it will receive, consider and respond to petitions by any interested person at any time with respect to reconsideration or revision. The effective date of regulations adopted under this subsection shall be in accordance with the provisions of § 9-6.14:9.3, except in the case of emergency regulations, which shall become effective as provided in subsection A of § 9-6.14:9.

D. The following agency actions otherwise subject to this chapter are excluded from the operation of Article 3 (§ 9-6.14:11 et seq.) of this chapter:

1. The assessment of taxes or penalties and other rulings in individual cases in connection with the administration of the tax laws.

2. The award or denial of claims for workers' compensation.

3. The grant or denial of public assistance.

4. Temporary injunctive or summary orders authorized by law.

5. The determination of claims for unemployment compensation or special unemployment.

6. The suspension of any license, certificate, registration or authority granted any person by the Department of Health Professions or the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation for the dishonor, by a bank or financial institution named, of any check, money draft or similar instrument used in payment of a fee required by statute or regulation.

E. Appeals from decisions of the Governor's Employment and Training Department otherwise subject to this chapter are excluded from the operation of Article 4 (§ 9-6.14:15 et seq.) of this chapter.

F. The Marine Resources Commission, otherwise subject to this chapter and § 9-6.18 of the Virginia Register Act, is excluded from the operation of subsection C of this section and of Article 2 (§ 9-6.14:7.1 et seq.) of this chapter; however, the authorization for any general permit or guidelines for activity undertaken pursuant to Title 28.2 by the Marine Resources Commission shall be in accordance

183 with the provisions of this chapter.

184 G. A regulation for which an exemption is claimed under this section and which is placed before a  
185 board or commission for consideration shall be provided at least two days in advance of the board or  
186 commission meeting to members of the public that request a copy of that regulation. A copy of that  
187 regulation shall be made available to the public attending such meeting.

188 H. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission shall conduct a review periodically of  
189 exemptions and exclusions authorized by this section. The purpose of this review shall be to assess  
190 whether there are any exemptions or exclusions which should be discontinued or modified.

191 I. Minor changes to regulations being published in the Virginia Administrative Code under the  
192 Virginia Register Act, Chapter 1.2 (§ 9-6.15 et seq.) of this title, made by the Virginia Code  
193 Commission pursuant to § 9-77.10:1 shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter.

194 § 28.2-1207. Authority to approve permits for encroachment on subaqueous beds; notice.

195 A. Any application for a permit to trespass upon or over or encroach upon subaqueous beds which  
196 are the Commonwealth's property may be approved by the Commissioner or his authorized  
197 representative if the application meets the requirements of §§ 28.2-1205 and 28.2-1206 and the following  
198 criteria are satisfied:

199 1. The total value of the project does not exceed \$50,000;

200 2. The application is not protested by any citizen or objected to by any state agency; and

201 3. The project for which the permit is sought will not require any other permit from the Commission.

202 B. If the permit application is for a shore erosion control project recommended by the soil and water  
203 conservation district in which the project is to be located and the criteria listed in subsection A of this  
204 section are satisfied, the Commission may, after giving notice of the application to the Virginia Institute  
205 of Marine Science, approve the application without giving notice to or awaiting the approval of any  
206 other state agency.

207 C. *The Commission shall, in conjunction with affected state and federal agencies, develop an*  
208 *expedited process for issuing general permits for activities that are intended to improve water quality*  
209 *such as bioengineered streambank projects and livestock stream crossings, and for activities required*  
210 *during emergencies in which a determination has been made that there is a threat to public or private*  
211 *property, or to the health and safety of the public. The development of the general permit shall be*  
212 *exempt from Article 2 (§ 9-6.14:7.1 et seq.) of the Administrative Process Act.*

213 § 62.1-44.15:5.1. *General permit for certain water quality improvement activities.*

214 A. *The Board shall coordinate the development of a general permit for activities such as*  
215 *bioengineered streambank stabilization projects and livestock stream crossings that: (i) are coverable by*  
216 *the Nationwide Permit Program (33 C.F.R. Part 330) of the United States Army Corps of Engineers; (ii)*  
217 *are conservation practices designed and supervised by a soil and water conservation district; (iii) meet*  
218 *the design standards of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the United States*  
219 *Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service; and (iv) are intended to improve*  
220 *water quality.*

221 B. *The development of the general permit shall be a coordinated effort between the Department of*  
222 *Environmental Quality, the Virginia Marine Resources Commission and such other agencies as may be*  
223 *needed to develop a single, unified, general permit that will expedite the implementation of the projects*  
224 *described in subsection A and unify and streamline the permitting process for such projects.*

225 C. *A general permit pursuant to this section shall be promulgated as final by July 1, 1998.*