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HOUSE BILL NO. 2479

Offered January 20, 1997

A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-1408.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to solid waste management facility permit applications.

Patron—Melvin

Referred to Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 10.1-1408.1 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

§ 10.1-1408.1. Permit required; open dumps prohibited.

A. No person shall operate any sanitary landfill or other facility for the disposal, treatment or storage of nonhazardous solid waste without a permit from the Director.

B. No application for a new solid waste management facility permit shall be complete unless it contains the following:

1. Certification from the governing body of the county, city or town in which the facility is to be located that the location and operation of the facility are consistent with all applicable ordinances. The governing body shall inform the applicant and the Department of the facility's compliance or noncompliance not more than 120 days from receipt of a request from the applicant. No such certification shall be required for the application for the renewal of a permit or transfer of a permit as authorized by regulations of the Board;

2. A disclosure statement, except that the Director, upon request and in his sole discretion and when in his judgment other information is sufficient and available, may waive the requirement for a disclosure statement for a captive industrial landfill when such a statement would not serve the purposes of this chapter;

3. If the applicant proposes to locate the facility on property not governed by any county, city or town zoning ordinance, certification from the governing body that it has held a public hearing, in accordance with the applicable provisions of § 15.1-431, to receive public comment on the proposed facility. Such certification shall be provided to the applicant and the Department within 120 days from receipt of a request from the applicant.

4. *If the applicant proposes to operate a new sanitary landfill or transfer station, a statement including a description of the steps taken by the applicant to seek the comments of the residents of the locality where the sanitary landfill or transfer station is proposed to be located regarding the siting and operation of the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station. The public comment steps shall be taken prior to filing with the Department the notice of intent to apply for a permit for the sanitary landfill or transfer station as required by the Department's Solid Waste Management Regulations. The public comment steps shall include publication of a public notice once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation serving the locality where the sanitary landfill or transfer station is proposed to be located and holding at least one public meeting within the locality to identify issues of concern, to facilitate communication and to establish a dialogue between the applicant and persons who may be affected by the issuance of a permit for the sanitary landfill or transfer station. The public notice shall include a statement of the applicant's intent to apply for a permit to operate the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station, the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station site location, the date, time and location of the public meeting the applicant will hold and the name, address and telephone number of a person employed by the applicant who can be contacted by interested persons to answer questions or receive comments on the siting and operation of the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station. The first publication of the public notice shall be at least fourteen days prior to the public meeting date.*

The provision of this subdivision shall not apply to applicants for a permit to operate a new captive industrial landfill.

5. *If the applicant is a local government or public authority that proposes to operate a new municipal sanitary landfill or transfer station, a statement including a description of the steps taken by the applicant to seek the comments of the residents of the locality where the sanitary landfill or transfer station is proposed to be located regarding the siting and operation of the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station. The public comment steps shall be taken prior to filing with the Department the notice of intent to apply for a permit for the sanitary landfill or transfer station as required by the Department's Solid Waste Management regulations. The public comment steps shall include the formation of a citizens advisory group to assist the locality or public authority with the selection of a*

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60 *proposed site for the sanitary landfill or transfer station, publication of a public notice once a week for*
61 *two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation serving the locality where the sanitary*
62 *landfill or transfer station is proposed to be located and holding at least one public meeting within the*
63 *locality to identify issues of concern, to facilitate communication and to establish a dialogue between the*
64 *applicant and persons who may be affected by the issuance of a permit for the sanitary landfill or*
65 *transfer station. The public notice shall include a statement of the applicant's intent to apply for a*
66 *permit to operate the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station, the proposed sanitary landfill or*
67 *transfer station site location, the date, time and location of the public meeting the applicant will hold*
68 *and the name, address and telephone number of a person employed by the applicant who can be*
69 *contacted by interested persons to answer questions or receive comments on the siting and operation of*
70 *the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station. The first publication of the public notice shall be at*
71 *least fourteen days prior to public meeting date.*

72 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

73 1. Every holder of a permit issued under this article who has not earlier filed a disclosure statement
74 shall, prior to July 1, 1991, file a disclosure statement with the Director.

75 2. Every applicant for a permit under this article shall file a disclosure statement with the Director
76 together with the permit application or prior to September 1, 1990, whichever comes later. No permit
77 application shall be deemed incomplete for lack of a disclosure statement prior to September 1, 1990.

78 3. Every applicant shall update its disclosure statement quarterly to indicate any change of condition
79 that renders any portion of the disclosure statement materially incomplete or inaccurate.

80 4. The Director, upon request and in his sole discretion, and when in his judgment other information
81 is sufficient and available, may waive the requirements of this subsection for a captive industrial waste
82 landfill when such requirements would not serve the purposes of this chapter.

83 D. No permit for a new solid waste management facility shall be issued until the Director has
84 determined, after investigation and evaluation of comments by the local government, that the proposed
85 facility poses no substantial present or potential danger to human health or the environment. The
86 Department shall hold a public hearing within the said county, city or town prior to the issuance of any
87 such permit for the management of nonhazardous solid waste.

88 E. The permit shall contain such conditions or requirements as are necessary to comply with the
89 requirements of this Code and the regulations of the Board and to prevent a substantial present or
90 potential hazard to human health and the environment.

91 The Director may include in any permit such recordkeeping, testing and reporting requirements as are
92 necessary to ensure that the local governing body of the county, city or town where the waste
93 management facility is located is kept timely informed regarding the general nature and quantity of
94 waste being disposed of at the facility. Such recordkeeping, testing and reporting requirements shall
95 require disclosure of proprietary information only as is necessary to carry out the purposes of this
96 chapter. At least once every ten years, the Director shall review and issue written findings on the
97 environmental compliance history of each permittee, material changes, if any, in key personnel, and
98 technical limitations, standards, or regulations on which the original permit was based. The time period
99 for review of each category of permits shall be established by Board regulation. If, upon such review,
100 the Director finds that repeated material or substantial violations of the permittee or material changes in
101 the permittee's key personnel would make continued operation of the facility not in the best interests of
102 human health or the environment, the Director shall amend or revoke the permit, in accordance
103 herewith. Whenever such review is undertaken, the Director may amend the permit to include additional
104 limitations, standards, or conditions when the technical limitations, standards, or regulations on which
105 the original permit was based have been changed by statute or amended by regulation or when any of
106 the conditions in subsection B of § 10.1-1409 exist. The Director may deny, revoke, or suspend any
107 permit for any of the grounds listed under subsection A of § 10.1-1409.

108 F. There shall exist no right to operate a landfill or other facility for the disposal, treatment or
109 storage of nonhazardous solid waste or hazardous waste within the Commonwealth. Permits for solid
110 waste management facilities shall not be transferable except as authorized in regulations promulgated by
111 the Board. The issuance of a permit shall not convey or establish any property rights or any exclusive
112 privilege, nor shall it authorize any injury to private property or any invasion of personal rights or any
113 infringement of federal, state, or local law or regulation.

114 G. No person shall dispose of solid waste in open dumps.

115 H. No person shall own, operate or allow to be operated on his property an open dump.

116 I. No person shall allow waste to be disposed of on his property without a permit. Any person who
117 removes trees, brush, or other vegetation from land used for agricultural or forestal purposes shall not be
118 required to obtain a permit if such material is deposited or placed on the same or other property of the
119 same landowner from which such materials were cleared. The Board shall by regulation provide for
120 other reasonable exemptions from permitting requirements for the disposal of trees, brush and other
121 vegetation when such materials are removed for agricultural or forestal purposes.

When promulgating any regulation pursuant to this section, the Board shall consider the character of the land affected, the density of population, the volume of waste to be disposed, as well as other relevant factors.

J. No permit shall be required pursuant to this section for recycling or for temporary storage incidental to recycling. As used in this subsection "recycling" means any process whereby material which would otherwise be solid waste is used or reused, or prepared for use or reuse, as an ingredient in an industrial process to make a product, or as an effective substitute for a commercial product.

K. The Board shall provide for reasonable exemptions from the permitting requirements, both procedural and substantive, in order to encourage the development of yard waste composting facilities. To accomplish this, the Board is authorized to exempt such facilities from regulations governing the treatment of waste and to establish an expedited approval process. Agricultural operations receiving only yard waste for composting shall be exempt from permitting requirements provided that (i) the composting area is located not less than 300 feet from a property boundary, is located not less than 1,000 feet from an occupied dwelling not located on the same property as the composting area, and is not located within an area designated as a flood plain as defined in § 10.1-600; (ii) the agricultural operation has at least one acre of ground suitable to receive yard waste for each 150 cubic yards of finished compost generated; (iii) the total time for the composting process and storage of material that is being composted or has been composted shall not exceed eighteen months prior to its field application or sale as a horticultural or agricultural product; and (iv) the owner or operator of the agricultural operation notifies the Director in writing of his intent to operate a yard waste composting facility and the amount of land available for the receipt of yard waste. In addition to the requirements set forth in clauses (i) through (iv) of the preceding sentence, the owner and operator of any agricultural operation that receives more than 6,000 cubic yards of yard waste generated from property not within the control of the owner or the operator in any twelve-month period shall be exempt from permitting requirements provided (i) the owner and operator submit to the Director an annual report describing the volume and types of yard waste received by such operation for composting and (ii) the operator shall certify that the yard waste composting facility complies with local ordinances. The Director shall establish a procedure for the filing of the notices, annual reports and certificates required by this subsection and shall prescribe the forms for the annual reports and certificates. Nothing contained in this article shall prohibit the sale of composted yard waste for horticultural or agricultural use, provided that any composted yard waste sold as a commercial fertilizer with claims of specific nutrient values, promoting plant growth, or of conditioning soil shall be sold in accordance with the Virginia Fertilizer Act (§ 3.1-106.1 et seq.). As used in this subsection, "agricultural operation" shall have the same meaning ascribed to it in subsection B of § 3.1-22.29.

The operation of a composting facility as provided in this subsection shall not relieve the owner or operator of such a facility from liability for any violation of this chapter.

L. The Board shall provide for reasonable exemptions from the permitting requirements, both procedural and substantive, in order to encourage the development of facilities for the decomposition of vegetative waste. To accomplish this, the Board shall approve an expedited approval process. As used in this subsection, the decomposition of vegetative waste means a natural aerobic or anaerobic process, active or passive, which results in the decay and chemical breakdown of the vegetative waste. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit a city or county from exercising its existing authority to regulate such facilities by requiring, among other things, permits and proof of financial security.

M. In receiving and processing applications for permits required by this section, the Director shall assign top priority to applications which (i) agree to accept nonhazardous recycling residues and (ii) pledge to charge tipping fees for disposal of nonhazardous recycling residues which do not exceed those charged for nonhazardous municipal solid waste. Applications meeting these requirements shall be acted upon no later than six months after they are deemed complete.

N. Every solid waste management facility shall be operated in compliance with the regulations promulgated by the Board pursuant to this chapter. To the extent consistent with federal law, those facilities which were permitted prior to March 15, 1993, and upon which solid waste has been disposed of prior to October 9, 1993, may continue to receive solid waste until they have reached their vertical design capacity, provided that the facility is in compliance with the requirements for liners and leachate control in effect at the time of permit issuance, and further provided that on or before October 9, 1993, the owner or operator of the solid waste management facility submits to the Director:

1. An acknowledgement that the owner or operator is familiar with state and federal law and regulations pertaining to solid waste management facilities operating after October 9, 1993, including postclosure care, corrective action and financial responsibility requirements;

2. A statement signed by a registered professional engineer that he has reviewed the regulations established by the Department for solid waste management facilities, including the open dump criteria contained therein, that he has inspected the facility and examined the monitoring data compiled for the

183 facility in accordance with applicable regulations and that, on the basis of his inspection and review, has
184 concluded: (i) that the facility is not an open dump, (ii) that the facility does not pose a substantial
185 present or potential hazard to human health and the environment, and (iii) that the leachate or residues
186 from the facility do not pose a threat of contamination or pollution of the air, surface water or ground
187 water in a manner constituting an open dump or resulting in a substantial present or potential hazard to
188 human health or the environment; and

189 3. A statement signed by the owner or operator (i) that the facility complies with applicable financial
190 assurance regulations, and (ii) estimating when the facility will reach its vertical design capacity.

191 The facility may not be enlarged prematurely to avoid compliance with state or federal regulations
192 when such enlargement is not consistent with past operating practices, the permit or modified operating
193 practices to ensure good management.

194 Facilities which are authorized by this subsection to accept waste for disposal beyond the waste
195 boundaries existing on October 9, 1993, shall be as follows:

196 Category 1: Nonhazardous industrial waste facilities that are located on property owned or controlled
197 by the generator of the waste disposed of in the facility;

198 Category 2: Nonhazardous industrial waste facilities other than those that are located on property
199 owned or controlled by the generator of the waste disposed of in the facility, provided that the facility
200 accepts only industrial waste streams which the facility has lawfully accepted prior to July 1, 1995, or
201 other nonhazardous industrial waste as approved by the Department on a case-by-case basis; and

202 Category 3: Facilities that accept only construction-demolition-debris waste as defined in the Board's
203 regulations.

204 The Director may prohibit or restrict the disposal of waste in facilities described in this subsection
205 which contains hazardous constituents as defined in applicable regulations which, in the opinion of the
206 Director, would pose a substantial risk to health or the environment. Facilities described in category 3
207 may expand laterally beyond the waste disposal boundaries existing on October 9, 1993, provided that
208 there is first installed, in such expanded areas, liners and leachate control systems meeting the applicable
209 performance requirements of the Board's regulations, or a demonstration is made to the satisfaction of
210 the Director that such facilities satisfy the applicable variance criteria in the Board's regulations.

211 Owners or operators of facilities which are authorized under this subsection to accept waste for
212 disposal beyond the waste boundaries existing on October 9, 1993, shall ensure that such expanded
213 disposal areas maintain setback distances applicable to such facilities under the Board's current
214 regulations and local ordinances. Prior to the expansion of any facility described in category 2 or 3, the
215 owner or operator shall provide the Director with written notice of the proposed expansion at least sixty
216 days prior to commencement of construction. The notice shall include recent groundwater monitoring
217 data sufficient to determine that the facility does not pose a threat of contamination of groundwater in a
218 manner constituting an open dump or creating a substantial present or potential hazard to human health
219 or the environment. The Director shall evaluate the data included with the notification and may advise
220 the owner or operator of any additional requirements that may be necessary to ensure compliance with
221 applicable laws and prevent a substantial present or potential hazard to health or the environment.

222 Facilities, or portions thereof, which have reached their vertical design capacity shall be closed in
223 compliance with regulations promulgated by the Board.

224 Nothing in this subsection shall alter any requirement for groundwater monitoring, financial
225 responsibility, operator certification, closure, postclosure care, operation, maintenance or corrective action
226 imposed under state or federal law or regulation, or impair the powers of the Director pursuant to
227 § 10.1-1409.

228 O. Portions of a permitted solid waste management facility used solely for the storage of household
229 hazardous waste may store household hazardous waste for a period not to exceed one year, provided that
230 such wastes are properly contained and are segregated to prevent mixing of incompatible wastes.

231 **2. That the provisions of this act creating subdivisions 4 and 5 in subsection B shall not apply to**
232 **any permit application for which a notice of intent pursuant to the Solid Waste Management**
233 **regulations has been filed with the Department prior to July 1, 1997.**