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HOUSE BILL NO. 754

Offered January 11, 2006

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A BILL to amend and reenact § 10.1-1408.1 of the Code of Virginia, relating to grandfathering of unlined landfills.

 Patron—McEachin

 Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Chesapeake 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 (i) a new solid waste management facility permit or (ii) application for a permit amendment or variance allowing a category 2 landfill, as defined in this section, to expand or increase in capacity 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 § 15.2-2204, 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 area 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 provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to applicants for a permit to operate a new captive industrial landfill or a new construction-demolition-debris 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 area 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'

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59 advisory group to assist the locality or public authority with the selection of a proposed site for the
60 sanitary landfill or transfer station, publication of a public notice once a week for two consecutive weeks
61 in a newspaper of general circulation serving the locality where the sanitary landfill or transfer station is
62 proposed to be located, and holding at least one public meeting within the locality to identify issues of
63 concern, to facilitate communication and to establish a dialogue between the applicant and persons who
64 may be affected by the issuance of a permit for the sanitary landfill or transfer station. The public notice
65 shall include a statement of the applicant's intent to apply for a permit to operate the proposed sanitary
66 landfill or transfer station, the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station site location, the date, time
67 and location of the public meeting the applicant will hold and the name, address and telephone number
68 of a person employed by the applicant, who can be contacted by interested persons to answer questions
69 or receive comments on the siting and operation of the proposed sanitary landfill or transfer station. The
70 first publication of the public notice shall be at least fourteen days prior to the public meeting date. For
71 local governments that have zoning ordinances, such public comment steps as required under
72 §§ 15.2-2204 and 15.2-2285 shall satisfy the public comment requirements for public hearings and
73 public notice as required under this section. Any applicant which is a local government or public
74 authority that proposes to operate a new transfer station on land where a municipal sanitary landfill is
75 already located shall be exempt from the public comment requirements for public hearing and public
76 notice otherwise required under this section;

77 6. If the application is for a new municipal solid waste landfill or for an expansion of an existing
78 municipal solid waste landfill, a statement, signed by the applicant, guaranteeing that sufficient disposal
79 capacity will be available in the facility to enable localities within the Commonwealth to comply with
80 solid waste management plans developed pursuant to § 10.1-1411, and certifying that such localities will
81 be allowed to contract for and to reserve disposal capacity in the facility. This provision shall not apply
82 to permit applications from one or more political subdivisions for new landfills or expanded landfills
83 that will only accept municipal solid waste generated within those political subdivisions' jurisdiction or
84 municipal solid waste generated within other political subdivisions pursuant to an interjurisdictional
85 agreement;

86 7. If the application is for a new municipal solid waste landfill or for an expansion of an existing
87 municipal solid waste landfill, certification from the governing body of the locality in which the facility
88 would be located that a host agreement has been reached between the applicant and the governing body
89 unless the governing body or a public service authority of which the governing body is a member would
90 be the owner and operator of the landfill. The agreement shall, at a minimum, have provisions covering
91 (i) the amount of financial compensation the applicant will provide the host locality, (ii) daily travel
92 routes and traffic volumes, (iii) the daily disposal limit, and (iv) the anticipated service area of the
93 facility. The host agreement shall contain a provision that the applicant will pay the full cost of at least
94 one full-time employee of the locality whose responsibility it will be to monitor and inspect waste
95 transportation and disposal practices in the locality. The host agreement shall also provide that the
96 applicant shall, when requested by the host locality, split air and water samples so that the host locality
97 may independently test the sample, with all associated costs paid for by the applicant. All such sampling
98 results shall be provided to the Department. For purposes of this subdivision, "host agreement" means
99 any lease, contract, agreement or land use permit entered into or issued by the locality in which the
100 landfill is situated which includes terms or conditions governing the operation of the landfill; and

101 8. If the application is for a locality-owned and locality-operated new municipal solid waste landfill
102 or for an expansion of an existing such municipal solid waste landfill, information on the anticipated (i)
103 daily travel routes and traffic volumes, (ii) daily disposal limit, and (iii) service area of the facility.

104 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

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

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

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

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

115 D. 1. Except as provided in subdivision D 2, no permit for a new solid waste management facility
116 nor any amendment to a permit allowing facility expansion or an increase in capacity shall be issued
117 until the Director has determined, after an investigation and analysis of the potential human health,
118 environmental, transportation infrastructure, and transportation safety impacts and needs and an
119 evaluation of comments by the host local government, other local governments and interested persons,
120 that (i) the proposed facility, expansion, or increase protects present and future human health and safety

and the environment; (ii) there is a need for the additional capacity; (iii) sufficient infrastructure will exist to safely handle the waste flow; (iv) the increase is consistent with locality-imposed or state-imposed daily disposal limits; (v) the public interest will be served by the proposed facility's operation or the expansion or increase in capacity of a facility; and (vi) the additional capacity is consistent with regional and local solid waste management plans developed pursuant to § 10.1-1411. The Department shall hold a public hearing within the said county, city or town prior to the issuance of any such permit for the management of nonhazardous solid waste. Subdivision D 2, in lieu of this subdivision, shall apply to nonhazardous industrial solid waste management facilities owned or operated by the generator of the waste managed at the facility, and that accept only waste generated by the facility owner or operator. The Board shall have the authority to promulgate regulations to implement this subdivision.

2. No new permit for a nonhazardous industrial solid waste management facility that is owned or operated by the generator of the waste managed at the facility, and that accepts only waste generated by the facility owner or operator, shall be issued until the Director has determined, after investigation and evaluation of comments by the local government, that the proposed facility poses no substantial present or potential danger to human health or the environment. The Department shall hold a public hearing within the county, city or town where the facility is to be located prior to the issuance of any such permit for the management of nonhazardous industrial solid waste.

E. The permit shall contain such conditions or requirements as are necessary to comply with the requirements of this Code and the regulations of the Board and to protect present and future human health and the environment.

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

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

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

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

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

182 To accomplish this, the Board is authorized to exempt such facilities from regulations governing the
183 treatment of waste and to establish an expedited approval process. Agricultural operations receiving only
184 yard waste for composting shall be exempt from permitting requirements provided that (i) the
185 composting area is located not less than 300 feet from a property boundary, is located not less than
186 1,000 feet from an occupied dwelling not located on the same property as the composting area, and is
187 not located within an area designated as a flood plain as defined in § 10.1-600; (ii) the agricultural
188 operation has at least one acre of ground suitable to receive yard waste for each 150 cubic yards of
189 finished compost generated; (iii) the total time for the composting process and storage of material that is
190 being composted or has been composted shall not exceed eighteen months prior to its field application
191 or sale as a horticultural or agricultural product; and (iv) the owner or operator of the agricultural
192 operation notifies the Director in writing of his intent to operate a yard waste composting facility and
193 the amount of land available for the receipt of yard waste. In addition to the requirements set forth in
194 clauses (i) through (iv) of the preceding sentence, the owner and operator of any agricultural operation
195 that receives more than 6,000 cubic yards of yard waste generated from property not within the control
196 of the owner or the operator in any twelve-month period shall be exempt from permitting requirements
197 provided (i) the owner and operator submit to the Director an annual report describing the volume and
198 types of yard waste received by such operation for composting and (ii) the operator shall certify that the
199 yard waste composting facility complies with local ordinances. The Director shall establish a procedure
200 for the filing of the notices, annual reports and certificates required by this subsection and shall
201 prescribe the forms for the annual reports and certificates. Nothing contained in this article shall prohibit
202 the sale of composted yard waste for horticultural or agricultural use, provided that any composted yard
203 waste sold as a commercial fertilizer with claims of specific nutrient values, promoting plant growth, or
204 of conditioning soil shall be sold in accordance with the Virginia Fertilizer Act (§ 3.1-106.1 et seq.). As
205 used in this subsection, "agricultural operation" shall have the same meaning ascribed to it in subsection
206 B of § 3.1-22.29.

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

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

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

221 N. Every solid waste management facility shall be operated in compliance with the regulations
222 promulgated by the Board pursuant to this chapter. To the extent consistent with federal law, *areas of*
223 *those facilities which were permitted prior to March 15, 1993, and upon which solid waste has been*
224 *disposed of prior to October 9, 1993, and which were not closed or did not cease accepting waste prior*
225 *to October 9, 1993,* may continue to receive solid waste until they have reached their vertical design
226 capacity, provided that the facility is in compliance with the requirements for liners and leachate control
227 in effect at the time of permit issuance, and further provided that on or before October 9, 1993, the
228 owner or operator of the solid waste management facility submits to the Director:

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

232 2. A statement signed by a registered professional engineer that he has reviewed the regulations
233 established by the Department for solid waste management facilities, including the open dump criteria
234 contained therein; that he has inspected the facility and examined the monitoring data compiled for the
235 facility in accordance with applicable regulations; and that, on the basis of his inspection and review, he
236 has concluded that: (i) the facility is not an open dump, (ii) the facility does not pose a substantial
237 present or potential hazard to human health and the environment, and (iii) the leachate or residues from
238 the facility do not pose a threat of contamination or pollution of the air, surface water or ground water
239 in a manner constituting an open dump or resulting in a substantial present or potential hazard to human
240 health or the environment; and

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

243 The facility may not be enlarged prematurely to avoid compliance with state or federal regulations

when such enlargement is not consistent with past operating practices, the permit or modified operating practices to ensure good management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P. Any permit for a new municipal solid waste landfill, and any permit amendment authorizing expansion of an existing municipal solid waste landfill, shall incorporate conditions to require that capacity in the landfill will be available to localities within the Commonwealth that choose to contract for and reserve such capacity for disposal of such localities' solid waste in accordance with solid waste management plans developed by such localities pursuant to § 10.1-1411. This provision shall not apply to permit applications from one or more political subdivisions for new landfills or expanded landfills that will only accept municipal solid waste generated within the political subdivision or subdivisions' jurisdiction or municipal solid waste generated within other political subdivisions pursuant to an interjurisdictional agreement.

Q. No owner or operator of a municipal solid waste management facility shall accept wastes for incineration or disposal from a vehicle operating with four or more axles unless the transporter of the waste provides certification, in a form prescribed by the Board, that the waste is free of substances not authorized for acceptance at the facility.