

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 1998 SESSION

CHAPTER 717

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 14 of Title 10.1 an article numbered 7.1, consisting of a section numbered 10.1-1454.1, relating to the transportation of wastes on waters of the state; penalty.

[H 816]

Approved April 16, 1998

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 14 of Title 10.1 an article numbered 7.1, consisting of a section numbered 10.1-1454.1, as follows:

Article 7.1.

Transportation of Solid and Medical Wastes on State Waters.

§ 10.1-1454.1. Regulation of wastes transported by water.

A. The Board shall develop regulations governing the commercial transport, loading and off-loading of nonhazardous solid waste (except scrap metal, dredged material and source-separated recyclables) and regulated medical waste by ship, barge or other vessel upon the navigable waters of the Commonwealth as are necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Commonwealth and to protect the Commonwealth's environment and natural resources from pollution, impairment or destruction. Included in the regulations shall be provisions governing (i) the issuance of permits by rule to facilities receiving nonhazardous solid waste (except scrap metal, dredged material and source-separated recyclables) and regulated medical waste from a ship, barge or other vessel transporting such wastes upon the navigable waters of the Commonwealth and (ii) to the extent allowable under federal law and regulation, the commercial transport of nonhazardous solid wastes (except scrap metal, dredged material and source-separated recyclables) and regulated medical waste upon the navigable waters of the Commonwealth and the loading and off-loading of ships, barges and other vessels transporting such waste. Also included in the regulations shall be requirements, to the extent allowable under federal law, that containers holding wastes be watertight and be designed, constructed, secured and maintained so as to prevent the escape of wastes, liquids and odors and to prevent the loss or spillage of wastes in the event of an accident.

B. A facility utilized to receive nonhazardous solid waste (except scrap metal, dredged material and source-separated recyclables) or regulated medical waste from a ship, barge or other vessel regulated pursuant to subsection A arriving at the facility upon the navigable waters of the Commonwealth is a solid waste management facility and is subject to the requirements of this chapter. On and after the date six months following the effective date of the regulations promulgated under subsection A no new facilities shall be constructed for the purposes of receiving any wastes regulated under subsection A from a ship, barge or other vessel without a permit issued in accordance with the Board's regulations. No facility receiving wastes regulated under subsection A by ship, barge or other vessel on the effective date of the regulations shall continue to receive such waste unless the facility owner or operator has submitted an application for a permit in accordance with the Board's regulations within ninety days following the effective date of the regulations promulgated under subsection A.

C. The Board shall, by regulation, establish a fee, payable by the owner or operator of any ship, barge or other vessel carrying, loading or off-loading waste regulated under this article on the navigable waters of the Commonwealth, sufficient to recover the administrative and enforcement costs of this article associated with such operations including, but not limited to, the inspection and monitoring of such ships, barges or other vessels to ensure compliance with this article. Such fee shall be assessed in the manner prescribed by the Board.

The owner or operator of a facility permitted to receive wastes regulated under this article from a ship, barge or other vessel shall be assessed a permit fee in accordance with the criteria set forth in § 10.1-1402.1.

The fees collected pursuant to this article shall be deposited into a separate account within the Virginia Waste Management Board Permit Program Fund (§ 10.1-1402.2) and shall be treated as are other moneys in that fund except that they shall only be used for the purposes of this article.

D. The Board shall promulgate regulations requiring owners and operators of ships, barges and other vessels transporting wastes regulated under this article to demonstrate financial responsibility sufficient to comply with the requirements of this article as a condition of operation. Regulations governing the amount of any financial responsibility required shall take into consideration: (i) the risk of potential damage or injury to state waters and the impairment of beneficial uses that may result from spillage or leakage from the ship, barge or vessel; (ii) the potential costs of containment and cleanup; and (iii) the nature and degree of injury or interference with general health, welfare and property that

may result.

E. The owner or operator of a ship, barge or other vessel from which there is spillage or loss to state waters of wastes subject to regulations under this article shall immediately report such spillage or loss in accordance with the regulations of the Board and shall immediately take all such actions as may be necessary to contain and remove such wastes from state waters.

F. No person shall transport wastes regulated under this article on the navigable waters of the Commonwealth by ship, barge or other vessel unless such ship, barge or vessel and the containers carried thereon are designed, constructed, loaded, operated and maintained so as to prevent the escape of liquids, waste and odors and to prevent the loss or spillage of waste in the event of an accident. A violation of this subsection shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "odors" means any emissions which cause an odor objectionable to individuals of ordinary sensibility.