

1 Introduced by Representative Cina of Burlington

2 Referred to Committee on

3 Date:

4 Subject: Conservation and development; water quality; wastewater treatment;
5 chemicals of emerging concern

6 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
7 Secretary of Natural Resources to amend the Vermont Quality Standards to
8 include criteria or effluent limitations for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl
9 substances.

10 An act relating to wastewater treatment of perfluoroalkyl and
11 polyfluoroalkyl substances

12 It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

13 Sec. 1. FINDINGS

14 The General Assembly finds that:

15 (1) Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other
16 perfluorochemicals are a large group of human-made chemicals that have been
17 used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1950s.

18 (2) PFAS may enter the environment when emitted during a
19 manufacturing process, from the disposal of goods containing PFAS, or from
20 leachate from landfills.

1 (3) Many PFAS do not break down and persist in the environment for a
2 very long time, especially in water, and, consequently, PFAS can be found in
3 many bodies of water and in the blood of humans and wildlife.

4 (4) The Vermont Water Quality Standards currently do not require the
5 treatment of PFAS in wastewater, including in leachate from landfills that is
6 discharged to State surface waters from wastewater treatment facilities.

7 (5) To ensure that the wastewater discharged to State waters does not
8 further contribute to PFAS pollution of the environment, the State should
9 amend the Vermont Water Quality Standards to include water quality criteria
10 or effluent limitations for the discharge of PFAS to the surface waters of the
11 State.

12 Sec. 2. VERMONT WATER QUALITY STANDARDS; WATER
13 QUALITY CRITERIA; PERFLUOROALKYL AND
14 POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES

15 On or before July 1, 2020, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall amend
16 the Vermont Water Quality Standards to include water quality criteria or
17 effluent limitations for the discharge of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl
18 substances (PFAS) to the surface waters of the State. The amendment to the
19 Vermont Water Quality Standards shall, at a minimum, include criteria or
20 effluent limitations for the following PFAS individually and in combination:
21 perfluorooctanoic acid, perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, perfluorohexane sulfonic

- 1 acid, perfluoroheptanoic acid, and perfluorononanoic acid. The amendment to
- 2 the rule may address additional PFAS.
- 3 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE
- 4 This act shall take effect on passage.