

1 H.479

2 Introduced by Representative Zagar of Barnard

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Conservation and development; potable water supply and wastewater  
6 systems; composting toilets

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the  
8 Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt rules addressing the use of composting  
9 toilets and the reuse of gray water.

10 An act relating to the design and operation of composting toilets

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

12 Sec. 1. 10 V.S.A. § 1971 is amended to read:

13 § 1971. PURPOSE

14 It is the purpose of this chapter to:

15 (1) establish a comprehensive program to regulate the construction,  
16 replacement, modification, and operation of potable water supplies and  
17 wastewater systems in the ~~state~~ State in order to protect human health and the  
18 environment, including potable water supplies, surface water, and  
19 groundwater;

1           (2) eliminate duplicative or unnecessary permitting requirements  
2 through the consolidation of existing authorities and, where appropriate, the  
3 use of permits by rule;

4           (3) ~~allow~~ encourage the use of alternative, innovative, and experimental  
5 technologies for the treatment and disposal of wastewater in the appropriate  
6 circumstances, including:

7                 (A) systems for the collection, treatment, and beneficial reuse of  
8 human waste in a manner consistent with the protection of the public health  
9 and safety and the quality of the waters of the State; and

10                (B) the appropriate reuse of gray water for beneficial uses;

11           (4) protect the investment of homeowners through a flexible remediation  
12 process for failed potable water supplies and wastewater systems;

13           (5) increase reliance on and the accountability of the private sector for  
14 the design and installation of potable water supplies and wastewater systems,  
15 through licensing and enforcement; and

16           (6) allow delegation of the permitting program created by this chapter to  
17 municipalities demonstrating the capacity to administer the chapter.

1       Sec. 2. 10 V.S.A. § 1978 is amended to read:

2       § 1978. RULES

3       (a) The ~~secretary~~ Secretary shall adopt rules, in accordance with 3 V.S.A.  
4 chapter 25, necessary for the administration of this chapter. These rules shall  
5 include, but are not limited to, the following:

6   \* \* \*

7       (9) provisions allowing the use of a variety of alternative or innovative  
8 technologies, including intermittent sand filters, recirculating sand filters,  
9 composting toilets, waterless toilets and greywater, gray water disposal  
10 systems, reuse of gray water, and constructed wetlands, that provide an  
11 adequate degree of protection of human health and the environment. When  
12 alternative or innovative technologies are approved for general use, the rules  
13 shall not require either a bond or the immediate construction of a duplicate  
14 wastewater system for those alternative or innovative technologies;

15   \* \* \*

16       Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

17       This act shall take effect on July 1, 2013.