

H.586: An Act Relating to Improving the Quality of State Waters:
Bullet Point Summary of House Committee on Agriculture Proposal Amendments

Sec.1. Findings

- Adds a Findings section related to agricultural water quality.
- Recognizes the role of the agricultural community in cleaning up State waters, but asserts that federal and State funding will be necessary to successfully implement cleanup.

Sec. 2. Small Farm Certification

- Requires the small farm certification rules required to be adopted by AAFM to address notice to AAFM of change of owner or operator of a farm.

Sec. 5. AAFM Corrective Actions

- Reinstated the requirement that AAFM provide alleged violators with a warning letter that includes a recommendation for corrective action.

Sec. 7. Seasonal Application of Manure

- Clarified that the exemption from the manure spreading ban can be granted during those extended banned dates—i.e. between April 1 and April 15 and Dec. 15 and Dec. 30.

Sec. 8. Agricultural Water Quality Training

- Required the training requirements to be issued by procedure, instead of rule.

Sec. 9. Certification of Custom Applicators

- Clarified that custom applicators apply nutrients and sludge in addition to manure.
- Defined seasonal employee. Allowed certified custom applicator to train seasonal employees.
- Required that AAFM issue the certification requirements by rule, not procedure.
- Reduced the amount of required training from 16 to 8 hours over 5 years.

Sec. 9a. Agricultural Stream Alteration

- Removed the requirement that berms be covered under the AAPs. AAFM and ANR agreed that agricultural berms are subject to ANR stream alteration jurisdiction.
- Removed from the definition of stream “ditches connected directly to a stream.”

Sec. 9b. Income Tax Exemption for Agricultural Water Quality Assistance

- Added income tax exemption for financial assistance received to address water quality issues.

Sec. 15 of HFWWR Amendment

- Deleted tax credit for agricultural best management practice.

Sec. 23 of HFWWR Amendment

Deleted AAFM report on AAPs as a condition of eligibility for UVA.