

**Act No. 86 (H.674). Conservation and land development; water resources;
wastewater discharges; public notice**

An act relating to public notice of wastewater discharges

This act requires public notice of untreated discharges from wastewater facilities and of cyanobacteria outbreaks.

The act requires wastewater treatment facility operators to post a public alert within one hour of discovery of an untreated discharge of sewage. If the operator lacks access to a telephone or the Internet, the operator shall post the alert within four hours of discovery. The operator must submit to the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR), within 12 hours of discovery, specified information regarding the untreated discharge.

ANR shall post notice of other unpermitted discharges that are not untreated discharges from wastewater treatment facilities.

The act requires that every combined sewer overflow outfall be marked with a permanent sign, and that a municipality in which an untreated discharge from a wastewater treatment facility occurs shall post signs in the area of the discharge.

The act requires the Department of Health (DOH) to maintain a publicly accessible website displaying information about the presence of cyanobacteria in State recreation areas. Within one hour of determining that cyanobacteria in water at a recreation area is a public health hazard, DOH shall conduct public outreach describing the area affected and the nature of the hazard.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 4, 2016