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**Act No. 181 (H.576). Conservation and land development; water resources; stormwater**

**An act relating to stormwater management**

H.576 amends requirements for the regulation of stormwater discharges from impervious surfaces. The act authorizes use of stormwater offsets and stormwater impact fees to permit stormwater discharges to all waters of the State, not just for discharges to Lake Champlain or a stormwater-impaired water.

The act amends the deadline by which the Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) is required to issue a general permit for stormwater discharges from impervious surface of three or more acres in size when the discharge was unpermitted or permitted prior to 2002. The deadline is changed from December 31, 2017 to 120 days after ANR adopts a new stormwater management rule. The act also amends the schedule for implementation of the three-acre permit to require impervious surface in the Lake Memphremagog basin and in a watershed of a stormwater-impaired water to be permitted on or before October 1, 2023.

The act requires a person to obtain a State operational stormwater permit for the new construction or redevelopment of one-half acre of impervious surface, instead of the current one acre of impervious surface. The half-acre permit threshold shall go into effect on July 1, 2022. The act exempts stormwater permits for development or redevelopment of impervious surface from the annual permit fee if the permit is for less than one acre of impervious surface.

The act requires ANR to report annually: whether it is achieving a 70 percent average phosphorus load reduction under the stormwater management rule; the estimated total phosphorus load reduction from impervious surfaces permitted in the previous calendar year; and the number of projects implementing each tier of stormwater treatment in the previous calendar year.

Multiple effective dates, beginning on May 28, 2018