

1 H.425

2 Introduced by Representatives Morris of Springfield, Casey of Montpelier,

3 Emmons of Springfield, Logan of Burlington, Masland of

4 Thetford, McCann of Montpelier, Pouech of Hinesburg, and

5 Waszazak of Barre City

6 Referred to Committee on

7 Date:

8 Subject: Conservation and development; solid waste; sludge; septage; regional

9 management

10 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require the
11 Secretary of Natural Resources to submit to the General Assembly a proposed
12 regional long-term septage, sludge, and solids management plan for the safe
13 and cost-effective disposition of septage, sludge, and biosolids in a manner that
14 eliminates or reduces environmental and public health risks.

15 An act relating to the regional management of the disposition of septage,
16 sludge, and biosolids

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

18 Sec. 1. REGIONAL LONG-TERM SEPTAGE, SLUDGE, AND SOLIDS

19 MANAGEMENT PLAN

20 (a) As used in this section:

1 (1) “Biosolids” means septage or sewage sludge derived, in whole or in
2 part, from domestic wastes that have been subjected to a treatment process for
3 the reduction of pathogens and have been demonstrated to meet the applicable
4 requirements in Agency rules for vector attraction reduction and pathogen
5 reduction.

6 (2) “Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances” or “PFAS” means a
7 class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated
8 carbon atom.

9 (3) “Secretary” means the Secretary of Natural Resources.

10 (4) “Septage” means the liquid and solid materials pumped from a septic
11 tank, portable toilet, or cesspool during cleaning.

12 (5) “Sludge” means any solid, semisolid, or liquid generated from a
13 municipal, commercial, or industrial wastewater treatment facility or process,
14 water supply treatment plant, air pollution control facility, or any other such
15 waste having similar characteristics and effects. “Sludge” includes Class A
16 and Class B sewage sludge as those terms are defined under 40 C.F.R. Part
17 503.

18 (6) “Wastewater treatment facility” has the same meaning as in section
19 1295 of this title.

20 (b) On or before January 15, 2025, the Secretary of Natural Resources shall
21 submit to the House Committee on Environment and the Senate Committee on

1 Natural Resources and Energy a proposed a regional long-term septage,
2 sludge, and solids management plan for the safe and cost-effective disposition
3 of septage, sludge, and biosolids in a manner that eliminates or reduced
4 environmental and public health risks. The plan shall:

5 (1) propose how to establish multimunicipality member districts or
6 utilities for the regional management of septage, sludge, or biosolids;

7 (2) identify, assess, and designate existing wastewater treatment
8 facilities in the State for the purpose of serving as a regional acceptance site for
9 septage, sludge, and biosolids, while preserving the ability of each facility to
10 serve the municipality in which it is located;

11 (3) identify administrative burdens, cost, capacity, or other barriers that
12 may limit the ability to operate a regional acceptance site and proposed
13 methods to address each identified barrier;

14 (4) propose how to preserve the ability of wastewater treatment facilities
15 to support wastewater projects by villages or municipalities without a facility
16 through continued acceptance of septage;

17 (5) how to facilitate intermunicipal agreements for the operation and use
18 of regional acceptance sites, including how costs to operate, maintain, upgrade,
19 or construct a regional facility can be shared across participating towns;

1 (6) assess and support options for the management of the outputs of
2 regional acceptance sites in order to ensure beneficial or value-added end use,
3 including whether:

4 (A) entering public-private partnerships for certain wastes or outputs
5 would benefit the operation of regional acceptance sites; and

6 (B) outputs could be utilized for resource recovery;

7 (7) propose how regional acceptance facilities would manage the
8 acceptance and disposition of septage, sludge, or biosolids containing
9 contaminants of concern, such as PFAS; and

10 (8) propose regional acceptance sites could charge for services,
11 including potential rate formulas, taxes, fees, or incentives.

12 (c) Prior to submitting the plan to the General Assembly under subsection
13 (b) of this section, the Secretary shall provide public notice of the proposed
14 plan and shall take public comment for a period of not less than 30 days.

15 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

16 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.