



# HOUSE BILL 576: Allow Aerosolization of Leachate.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	September 13, 2017
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Rep. Dixon	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Jennifer McGinnis
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Ratified		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *House Bill 576 would: (i) require the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to approve aerosolization as an acceptable method of disposal for leachate wastewater collected from a lined sanitary landfill within the lined area of the landfill; (ii) allow DEQ to approve aerosolization as an acceptable method of disposal for leachate wastewater collected from an unlined sanitary landfill; and (iii) provide that aerosolization of leachate or wastewater that results in a zero liquid discharge and is not a significant air contamination source does not constitute a discharge that requires a permit under the air or water permitting statutes.*

*This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 30, 2017, has not been overridden by the General Assembly, and, therefore, has not become law.*

**CURRENT LAW/ BACKGROUND:** In February 2016, a working group of the Environmental Review Commission met to discuss a variety of issues related to waste management. During that process, the working group received information on aerosolization as a process for disposal of leachate at landfills, and a briefing on aerosolization projects operating within the State. According to information received by the working group<sup>1</sup>, aerosolization of wastewater is a process by which larger particles (50-2,000 microns) are formed into droplets and then dispersed over a relatively small area (100' x 300'). Such projects require a permit from the Department's Division of Waste Management.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The bill would modify the statute governing permitting authority of DEQ over establishment and operation of solid waste management facilities to: (i) require that DEQ approve aerosolization as an acceptable method of disposal for leachate wastewater collected from a lined sanitary landfill within the lined area of the landfill; and (ii) allow DEQ to approve aerosolization as an acceptable method of disposal for leachate wastewater collected from an unlined sanitary landfill. Aerosolization would not be allowed, however, for landfills permitted to receive coal ash or swine waste. Applicants for permits for aerosolization would be required to provide DEQ with data that characterizes contaminants of

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<sup>1</sup> See additional information at [http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/DocumentSites/browseDocSite.asp?nID=12&sFolderName=2015-2016 ERC Documents\Waste Working Group \(S.L. 2015-241, Sec. 14.21\(a\)\(b\)\)\1 - February 10, 2016](http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/DocumentSites/browseDocSite.asp?nID=12&sFolderName=2015-2016 ERC Documents\Waste Working Group (S.L. 2015-241, Sec. 14.21(a)(b))\1 - February 10, 2016)

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concern around the landfill emanating from aerosolization. The bill would also provide that aerosolization of leachate or wastewater that results in a zero liquid discharge and is not a significant air contamination source does not constitute a discharge that requires a permit under the air or water permitting statutes.

DEQ must gather information on approved aerosolization projects and report its findings, including any recommendations for legislative action, to the Environmental Review Commission by March 31, 2018.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The bill would be effective when it becomes law.