



HOUSE BILL 812: Nutrient Offset Amendments.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	December 10, 2019
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Jeff Hudson
Analysis of:	S.L. 2019-86		Legislative Analyst

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2019-86 allows a wastewater facility to offset its nutrient reduction requirements with nutrient offset credits from a nutrient offset project located in another hydrologic area if the project is downstream from the wastewater facility and upstream from the impaired water body.*

This act became effective July 8, 2019, and applies to nutrient offset credits purchased on or after that date.

BACKGROUND:

Nutrient offset mitigation may be required for new or existing development or facilities where nutrient reductions are required as part of a nutrient management strategy. There are nutrient management strategies for the Neuse River Basin, the Tar-Pamlico River Basin, the Falls Lake Watershed, and the Jordan Lake Watershed. Nutrient offset credits may be purchased from a private mitigation bank or the Division of Mitigation Services in the Department of Environmental Quality.

PREVIOUS LAW:

Under the previous law, nutrient offset credits must have been purchased from a nutrient offset project located within the same hydrologic area as the wastewater facility for which the nutrient offset credits are sought.

BILL ANALYSIS:

S.L. 2019-86 allows a wastewater facility to offset its nutrient reduction requirements with nutrient offset credits from a nutrient offset project located in another hydrologic area if the project is downstream from the wastewater facility and upstream from the impaired water body. S.L. 2019-86 also authorizes the Environmental Management Commission to further limit the permissible nutrient offset projects.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This act became effective July 8, 2019, and applies to nutrient offset credits purchased on or after that date.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578