

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 551 Session of 2023

INTRODUCED BY ZIMMERMAN, GREINER, HAMM, PICKETT, FINK, STAMBAUGH AND M. JONES, MARCH 20, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY, MARCH 20, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987, No.394), entitled
 2 "An act to preserve and improve the purity of the waters of
 3 the Commonwealth for the protection of public health, animal
 4 and aquatic life, and for industrial consumption, and
 5 recreation; empowering and directing the creation of
 6 indebtedness or the issuing of non-debt revenue bonds by
 7 political subdivisions to provide works to abate pollution;
 8 providing protection of water supply and water quality;
 9 providing for the jurisdiction of courts in the enforcement
 10 thereof; providing additional remedies for abating pollution
 11 of waters; imposing certain penalties; repealing certain
 12 acts; regulating discharges of sewage and industrial wastes;
 13 regulating the operation of mines and regulating the impact
 14 of mining upon water quality, supply and quantity; placing
 15 responsibilities upon landowners and land occupiers and to
 16 maintain primary jurisdiction over surface coal mining in
 17 Pennsylvania," in other pollutions and potential pollution,
 18 providing for notice of discharge endangering public health
 19 or environment.

20 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 21 hereby enacts as follows:

22 Section 1. The act of June 22, 1937 (P.L.1987, No.394),
 23 known as The Clean Streams Law, is amended by adding a section
 24 to read:

25 Section 404. Notice of Discharge Endangering Public Health
 26 or Environment.--(a) A person who spills, discharges or

1 releases a substance into the waters of this Commonwealth, or on
2 a location from which the substance is likely to enter the
3 waters of this Commonwealth, taking into account any control and
4 remedial measures, shall notify the department if the spill,
5 discharge or release is not authorized by a permit from the
6 department and is likely to render the receiving waters harmful
7 to public health or the environment as determined by reportable
8 quantities or other readily ascertainable standards adopted by
9 regulation under subsection (c).

10 (b) No later than one hundred eighty days after the
11 effective date of this section, the Environmental Quality Board
12 shall publish for public comment proposed regulations
13 establishing reportable quantities or other readily
14 ascertainable standards by which a person under subsection (a)
15 may determine whether a spill, discharge or release is likely to
16 render the receiving waters harmful to public health or the
17 environment.

18 (c) No later than three hundred sixty-five days after the
19 effective date of this section, the Environmental Quality Board
20 shall promulgate final regulations establishing reportable
21 quantities or other readily ascertainable standards by which a
22 person under subsection (a) may determine whether a spill,
23 discharge or release is likely to render the receiving waters
24 harmful to public health or the environment.

25 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.