

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 864  
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/11/24

Short Title: PFAS Pollution and Polluter Liability.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 26, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF NORTH CAROLINA FROM DRINKING  
3 WATER CONTAMINATED BY GENX AND OTHER PFAS COMPOUNDS.  
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **PART I. ABATEMENT OF PFAS EXCEEDANCES IN PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS**

7 **SECTION 1.** Article 1 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes is amended by  
8 adding a new section to read:

9 **"§ 130A-19.1. Abatement of PFAS exceedances.**

10 (a) The following definitions apply in this section:

11 (1) Permissible concentration level. – For an individual per- and polyfluoroalkyl  
12 substances (PFAS) compound, or combined PFAS compounds, any maximum  
13 contaminant level that may be established by the United States Environmental  
14 Protection Agency for the PFAS compound in question, or combined  
15 compounds.

16 (2) PFAS manufacturer. – Persons that produce PFAS compounds through  
17 processes including, but not limited to, electrochemical fluorination (ECF),  
18 telomerization, fluorocarbon polymerization, and production of  
19 fluoropolymers. The term shall not include PFAS customers of PFAS  
20 manufacturers that use raw PFAS feedstock, for example: (i) to produce  
21 commercial or consumer goods, such as weatherproof caulking, or (ii) as  
22 intermediary products for use in the manufacture of commercial goods, such  
23 as a greaseproof coating for a pizza box.

24 (3) Responsible party. – A PFAS manufacturer whose discharge or release of  
25 PFAS into the environment has caused or contributed to the presence of PFAS  
26 in a public water system as described in subsection (b) of this section.

27 (4) Secretary. – Means the Secretary of Environmental Quality.

28 (b) The Secretary may order a responsible party to pay a public water system any actual  
29 and necessary costs incurred by the public water system to remove, correct, or abate any adverse  
30 effects upon the water supply resulting from contamination for which the person is responsible  
31 if the Secretary determines all of the following:

32 (1) The person is a PFAS manufacturer.

33 (2) The PFAS manufacturer discharged or released PFAS into the environment  
34 that has caused or contributed to the presence of PFAS in the public water  
35 system.



1           (3)   The concentration of PFAS in the public water system, including any raw  
2           water intake, regardless of the system's raw water source, including surface  
3           water, public well, or pumped groundwater storage, has exceeded a  
4           permissible concentration level.

5           Such costs shall include costs to procure, implement, maintain, and operate technology to  
6           reduce PFAS concentrations in finished drinking water below the permissible concentration  
7           level. If a responsible party refuses to comply with an order, the Secretary may institute an action  
8           in the superior court of the county where the public water system exists to enforce the order.

9           (c)   A responsible party shall be jointly and severally liable for all actual and necessary  
10          costs imposed by the Secretary pursuant to subsection (b) of this section. Nothing in this section  
11          shall limit or diminish any rights of contribution for costs incurred herein.

12          (d)   A public water system shall reimburse ratepayers of the system through a reduction  
13          in future rates charged if (i) the public water system has previously expended funds to remove,  
14          correct, or abate any adverse effects upon its water supply resulting from PFAS contamination,  
15          (ii) the amount of funds expended by the public water system for that purpose has been included  
16          in rates charged to its ratepayers, and (iii) the funds expended by the public water system are  
17          subsequently reimbursed by the responsible party as the result of an order issued pursuant to  
18          subsection (b) of this section.

19          (e)   The remedy under this section is in addition to those provided by existing statutory  
20          and common law."

## 21           **PART II. IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING**

22           **SECTION 2.(a)** Department Funding. – The sum of three hundred thousand dollars  
23           (\$300,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year is appropriated from the General  
24           Fund to the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) to implement the requirements  
25           of this act. These funds shall be deposited into the PFAS Public Water Protection Fund, which is  
26           established in the Department as a special fund. The Department may establish time-limited  
27           positions with the funds appropriated by this subsection.  
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29           **SECTION 2.(b)** Report. – The Department shall report to the Joint Legislative  
30           Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources no later than  
31           December 15, 2024, and annually thereafter, on their use of the funds appropriated by this act,  
32           including abatement orders issued by the Secretary of Environmental Quality using the authority  
33           conferred by G.S. 130A-19.1, as enacted by Section 1 of this act.  
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## 35           **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

36           **SECTION 3.** Section 2 of this act becomes effective September 1, 2024. Section 1  
37           of this act is effective when it becomes law and applies retroactively to costs incurred by a public  
38           water system on or after January 1, 2017, to remove, correct, or abate any adverse effects upon a  
39           water supply resulting from contamination, irrespective of when a maximum contaminant level  
40           was established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency for the PFAS compound  
41           in question. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.