

HOUSE BILL NO. 51

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 1/18/17

Referred: Transportation, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the regulation of wastewater discharge from small commercial
2 passenger vessels in state waters; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 46.03.462(a) is amended to read:

5 (a) An owner or operator may not discharge any treated sewage, graywater, or
6 other wastewater from a commercial passenger vessel into the marine waters of the
7 state unless the owner or operator **has**

8 **(1)** [OBTAINS] a permit under AS 46.03.100 **that requires**
9 **compliance** [, WHICH SHALL COMPLY] with the terms and conditions of vessel
10 discharge requirements specified in (b) of this section; **or**

11 **(2) a plan approved under (k) of this section.**

12 * **Sec. 2.** AS 46.03.462(b) is amended to read:

13 (b) The minimum standard terms and conditions for all discharge permits
14 authorized under **(a)(1) of** this section require that the owner or operator

1 (1) may not discharge untreated sewage, treated sewage, graywater, or
 2 other wastewaters in a manner that violates any applicable state or federal law
 3 governing the disposal or discharge of solid or liquid waste material;

4 (2) shall maintain records and provide the reports required under
 5 AS 46.03.465(a);

6 (3) shall collect and test samples as required under AS 46.03.465(b)
 7 and (d) and provide the reports with respect to those samples required by
 8 AS 46.03.475(c);

9 (4) shall report discharges in accordance with AS 46.03.475(a);

10 (5) shall allow the department access to the vessel at the time samples
 11 are taken under AS 46.03.465 for purposes of taking the samples or for purposes of
 12 verifying the integrity of the sampling process; and

13 (6) shall submit records, notices, and reports to the department in
 14 accordance with AS 46.03.475(b), (d), and (e).

15 * **Sec. 3.** AS 46.03.462(e) is amended to read:

16 (e) When issuing, reissuing, renewing, or modifying a permit required under
 17 (a)(1) [(a)] of this section, the department may only include the authorization of a
 18 mixing zone for a commercial passenger vessel that employs an advanced wastewater
 19 treatment system that falls within the class of systems identified by the department
 20 under (j) of this section or employs other means of pollution prevention, control, and
 21 treatment that the department finds can achieve a quality of effluent that is comparable
 22 to that of one or more vessels employing an advanced wastewater treatment system. If
 23 a commercial passenger vessel employs an advanced wastewater treatment system that
 24 satisfies the requirements of this subsection, the department shall find the commercial
 25 passenger vessel satisfies all state technology-based treatment requirements for
 26 authorization of a mixing zone.

27 * **Sec. 4.** AS 46.03.462 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

28 (k) The owner or operator of a small commercial passenger vessel may submit
 29 a plan for alternative terms and conditions of vessel discharges. The alternative terms
 30 and conditions may include alternatives to the requirements under AS 46.03.465(a) -
 31 (d). The department shall approve the plan for a five-year period if the department

1 finds that the alternative terms and conditions in the plan incorporate the best
2 management practices for protecting the environment to the maximum extent feasible.
3 The department shall adopt regulations to implement this subsection but may not
4 require an owner or operator to retrofit a vessel solely for the purpose of waste
5 treatment if the retrofitting requires additional stability testing or relicensing by the
6 United States Coast Guard. In this subsection, "best management practices" means
7 schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other
8 management practices to prevent or reduce the pollution of the marine waters of the
9 state.

10 * **Sec. 5.** AS 46.03.463(b) is amended to read:

11 (b) Except as provided in (h) of this section **or under a plan for a small**
12 **commercial passenger vessel approved under AS 46.03.462(k)**, a person may not
13 discharge sewage from a commercial passenger vessel into the marine waters of the
14 state that has suspended solids greater than 150 milligrams per liter or a fecal coliform
15 count greater than 200 colonies per 100 milliliters except that the department may by
16 regulation adopt a protocol for retesting for fecal coliform, if this discharge limit for
17 fecal coliform is exceeded, under which a discharger will be considered to be in
18 compliance with the fecal coliform limit if the geometric mean of fecal coliform count
19 in the samples considered under the protocol does not exceed 200 colonies per 100
20 milliliters.

21 * **Sec. 6.** AS 46.03.463(c) is amended to read:

22 (c) Except as provided in (h) of this section **or under a plan for a small**
23 **commercial passenger vessel approved under AS 46.03.462(k)**, a person may not
24 discharge graywater or other wastewater from a commercial passenger vessel into the
25 marine waters of the state that has suspended solids greater than 150 milligrams per
26 liter or a fecal coliform count greater than 200 colonies per 100 milliliters except that
27 the department may by regulation adopt a protocol for retesting for fecal coliform, if
28 this discharge limit for fecal coliform is exceeded, under which a discharger will be
29 considered to be in compliance with the fecal coliform limit if the geometric mean of
30 fecal coliform count in the samples considered under the protocol does not exceed 200
31 colonies per 100 milliliters.

1 * **Sec. 7.** AS 46.03.465 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

2 (i) The department may exempt from the requirements of (a) - (d) of this
3 section the owner or operator of a small commercial passenger vessel who has a plan
4 for alternative terms and conditions of vessel discharges approved under
5 AS 46.03.462(k).

6 * **Sec. 8.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).