

Senate Bill 367

By: Senator Meyer von Bremen of the 12th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 31-2-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 standards for sewage management systems, so as to repeal the definition of "prior approved
3 system"; to authorize the Department of Human Resources to adopt state-wide regulations
4 for on-site sewage management systems; to authorize the department to require prior
5 examination and approval of such systems before use in Georgia; to provide for a reduction
6 in trench length under certain circumstances; to provide for the revocation of such reduction
7 under certain circumstances; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

9 **SECTION 1.**

10 Code Section 31-2-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to standards for
11 sewage management systems, is amended by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting
12 in lieu thereof new subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

13 "(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

14 (1) 'Chamber system' means a system of chambers with each chamber being a molded
15 polyolefin plastic, arch shaped, hollow structure with an exposed bottom area and solid
16 top and louvered sidewall for infiltration of effluent into adjoining bottom and sidewall
17 soil areas. Chambers may be of different sizes and configurations to obtain desired
18 surface areas.

19 (2) 'Conventional system' means a system traditionally used composed of perforated pipe
20 surrounded by gravel or stone masking for the infiltration of effluent into adjoining
21 bottom and side soil areas.

22 (3) 'On-site sewage management system' means a sewage management system other than
23 a public or community sewage treatment system serving one or more buildings, mobile
24 homes, recreational vehicles, residences, or other facilities designed or used for human
25 occupancy or congregation. Such term shall include, without limitation, conventional and
26 chamber septic tank systems, privies, and experimental and alternative on-site sewage

1 management systems which are designed to be physically incapable of a surface
2 discharge of effluent that may be approved by the department.

3 (4) 'Prior approved system' means only a chamber system or conventional system or
4 component of such system which is designed to be physically incapable of a surface
5 discharge of effluent and which was properly approved pursuant to subparagraph
6 (a)(2)(B) of this Code section, as such Code section became law on April 19, 1994, for
7 use according to manufacturers' recommendations, prior to April 14, 1997.

8 (5) 'Unsatisfactory service' means documented substandard performance as compared
9 to other approved systems or components.

10 (b) The Department of Human Resources shall have the authority as it deems necessary
11 and proper to may adopt state-wide regulations for on-site, sewage management systems;
12 including but not limited to experimental and alternative systems. The department is
13 authorized to may require that any such an on-site sewage management system be
14 examined and approved prior to allowing the use of such system in the state; provided,
15 however, that any prior approved system shall continue to be approved for installation in
16 every county of the state pursuant to the manufacturer's recommendations, including sizing
17 of no less than 50 percent of trench length of a conventional system designed for equal
18 flows in similar soil conditions. Upon written request of one-half or more of the health
19 districts in the state, the department is authorized to require the reexamination of any such
20 system or component thereof, provided that documentation is submitted indicating
21 unsatisfactory service of such system or component thereof. Before any such examination
22 or reexamination, the department may require the person, persons, or organization
23 manufacturing or marketing the system to reimburse the department or its agent for the
24 reasonable expenses of such examination. The department may grant a reduction in trench
length for an on-site sewage management system which provides health and environmental
protection performance equivalent to that of a conventional system. The department may
revoke a grant of a reduction in trench length if the department determines that an on-site
sewage management system is providing unsatisfactory service."

29 **SECTION 2.**

30 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.