

Senate Bill 180

By: Senators Jordan of the 6th, Anderson of the 43rd, Jones of the 25th, Halpern of the 39th and Strickland of the 17th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 12-9-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to permit  
2 required, application, issuance, revocation, suspension, or amendment, so as to provide for  
3 certain conditions for permits for facilities that emit ethylene oxide; to provide for  
4 definitions; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Code Section 12-9-7 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to permit required,  
8 application, issuance, revocation, suspension, or amendment, is amended by revising  
9 subsection (a) as follows:

10 "(a)(1) As used in this subsection, the term '~~spill or release~~' shall have the same meaning  
11 as set forth in paragraph (10) of Code Section 12-14-1.:

12 (A) 'Exhaust point' means any point in a source designed to emit solids, liquids, or  
13 gases into the air, including a pipe or duct but not including flares.

14 (B) 'Off gassing' means the release of a gas that was dissolved, trapped, frozen, or  
15 absorbed in a material.

16 (C) 'Spill or release' shall have the same meaning as set forth in paragraph (10) of  
17 Code Section 12-14-1.

18 (2) No person shall, and it shall be unlawful and a violation of this article to, construct,  
19 install, modify, own, or operate any facility or stationary source or any equipment,  
20 device, article, or process capable of causing or contributing to the emission of air  
21 contaminants from such source or facility or designed to prevent air pollution from such  
22 facility or source unless permitted by and in compliance with a permit from the director.  
23 A permit shall be issued to an applicant on evidence satisfactory to the director of  
24 compliance with this article and any standards, limitations, requirements, or rules and  
25 regulations pursuant to this article. Notwithstanding any other provision of this article,  
26 the director shall not issue a Title V permit to a facility or source if the administrator  
27 objects in writing and in a timely manner to the issuance of such permit.

28 (3) As a condition of a permit for operations that include the emission of ethylene oxide,  
29 any spill or release of ethylene oxide, regardless of the amount, shall be reported to the  
30 division in writing within 24 hours of discovering such spill or release. Any person who  
31 violates such reporting requirement shall be subject to penalties under Article 1 of this  
32 chapter.

33 (4)(A) As an additional condition of any permit to release more than 50 pounds of  
34 ethylene oxide annually, each applicant or permittee shall:

35 (i) Allow the division to install equipment that can detect and monitor ethylene oxide  
36 emissions from each exhaust point at the applicant's or permittee's location; and

37 (ii) Allow the division to continuously monitor direct emissions of ethylene oxide  
38 and retain records of the daily release of ethylene oxide from each exhaust point for  
39 the term of the permit.

40 (B) The director shall make publicly available on the division's website at least twice  
41 annually information regarding the monitoring required by division (ii) of subparagraph  
42 (A) of this paragraph.

43 (C) Off gassing shall occur for no less than 36 hours in an area of an operation that  
44 utilizes a vent control system approved by the division. Off gassing shall not occur in  
45 any warehouse, building, or loading dock that does not utilize a vent control system  
46 approved by the division.

47 (D) Each applicant or permittee whose facilities emit ethylene oxide shall submit to the  
48 division, by January 1, 2022, an ambient air monitoring plan. This plan shall include,  
49 at a minimum, the following:

50 (i) Detailed plans to collect and analyze air samples of ethylene oxide on at least a  
51 quarterly basis nearest the property boundaries of the sterilization sources and at  
52 community locations with the highest modeled impact per the division's modeling;

53 (ii) A quarterly sampling and analysis conducted over each consecutive six-day  
54 period;

55 (iii) A detailed schedule for implementation of the plan;

56 (iv) The name of the independent third-party company that will perform the sampling  
57 and analysis along with its qualifications and experience to perform such sampling  
58 and analysis; and

59 (v) Results of each quarterly sampling and analysis, which shall also be submitted to  
60 the local county board of commissioners or the city council with jurisdiction thereof.

61 Such plan shall be made available for public view and comment prior to an agreement  
62 with the division and shall be resubmitted every 24 months.

63 (E) Any person who fails to comply with any requirement of this paragraph shall be  
64 subject to penalties under Article 1 of this chapter."

65 **SECTION 2.**

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