

STATE OF NEW YORK

4574--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 7, 2025

Introduced by Sens. MAY, FAHY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Environmental Conservation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to enacting the "PFAS discharge disclosure act"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
- 2 the "PFAS discharge disclosure act".
- 3 § 2. Legislative intent. The legislature finds and declares the
- 4 following:
- 5 1. PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a class of persist-
- 6 ent, bioaccumulative, and toxic chemicals which have contaminated
- 7 surface waters and groundwater in New York and across the country.
- 8 2. New York has led the nation by limiting two PFAS--perfluorooctanoic
- 9 acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS)--in drinking water
- 10 by setting a maximum contaminant level for these two chemicals in 2020.
- 11 New York has also designated twenty-three additional PFAS chemicals as
- 12 emerging contaminants under section 1112 of the public health law, which
- 13 requires statewide drinking water testing and public notification.
- 14 3. In December 2022, the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- 15 published guidance encouraging states to require permitted industries,
- 16 Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs), and industrial sources sending
- 17 waste to POTWs to monitor for and disclose the presence of PFAS in
- 18 wastewater discharged into waterways. The treatment technology at POTWs
- 19 is not designed to remove PFAS from wastewater, meaning any PFAS intro-
- 20 duced to the POTW by an industrial source will pass through into the
- 21 waters of the state.
- 22 4. In 2023, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- 23 adopted numeric guidance values limiting the acceptable amounts of PFOA

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 and PFOS that can be discharged into waters of the state by State Pollu-
2 tant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permittees.

3 5. However, DEC's permitting guidance has only applied these limits
4 and PFAS testing requirements to a subset of facilities, meaning that
5 many potential polluters directly or indirectly discharging into the
6 waters of the state, including industrial sources sending waste to
7 POTWs, have not yet been required to test for PFAS.

8 6. The lack of information about the suite of PFAS chemicals currently
9 entering New York's waterways is a barrier to developing regulations to
10 protect people and the environment from the harms of PFAS in our water-
11 ways.

12 7. Legislation is necessary to ensure key facilities currently
13 discharging or proposing to discharge into waters in New York disclose
14 the presence of these forever chemicals to the public.

15 § 3. The environmental conservation law is amended by adding a new
16 section 17-0833 to read as follows:

17 § 17-0833. PFAS discharge disclosure requirement.

18 1. Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms shall
19 have the following meanings:

20 (a) "Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances" or "PFAS" means a
21 class of fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully
22 fluorinated carbon atom.

23 (b) "Industrial discharger" means a facility with or seeking a SPDES
24 permit to discharge industrial wastewater into the waters of the state,
25 excluding general SPDES permits.

26 (c) "Industrial source" means a facility introducing or seeking to
27 introduce industrial wastewater to a POTW for treatment before being
28 discharged into the waters of the state.

29 (d) "POTW" means a publicly owned treatment works with or seeking a
30 SPDES permit to discharge sewage into the waters of the state.

31 (e) "Industrial wastewater" means liquid industrial waste, including
32 but not limited to leachate from solid waste facilities.

33 (f) "PFAS monitoring" means sampling of industrial wastewater or
34 sewage from each outlet to determine the concentration of PFAS present.

35 2. Every industrial discharger or POTW making an application for a new
36 SPDES permit shall submit as part of such application the projected or
37 estimated results of PFAS monitoring.

38 3. All new SPDES permits issued to industrial dischargers or POTWs
39 shall require such facilities to conduct PFAS monitoring at least quar-
40 terly for one year and submit the first results of such monitoring to
41 the department within ninety days of the commencement of the discharge.
42 If any PFAS are detected during the PFAS monitoring, at a level that the
43 department has determined warrants continued monitoring pursuant to
44 subdivision ten of this section, the department shall modify the SPDES
45 permit of the industrial discharger or POTW to require quarterly PFAS
46 monitoring for the duration of the permit term.

47 4. Every industrial discharger or POTW seeking to renew a SPDES permit
48 shall, as part of its renewal application, submit PFAS monitoring
49 results to the department not less than one hundred eighty days prior to
50 the expiration of the existing SPDES permit. If any PFAS are detected
51 during the PFAS monitoring, at a level that the department has deter-
52 mined warrants continued monitoring pursuant to subdivision ten of this
53 section, the department shall modify the facility's SPDES permit to
54 require quarterly PFAS monitoring for the duration of the permit term.

55 5. Any industrial discharger or POTW that is lawfully operating under
56 an expired or administratively renewed SPDES permit shall submit PFAS

1 monitoring results to the department within six months of the effective
2 date of this section and at least once every five years thereafter.

3 6. A POTW shall require any new industrial source seeking to introduce
4 industrial wastewater into the POTW to conduct PFAS monitoring and
5 submit the results of such monitoring to the POTW and the department
6 prior to introducing industrial wastewater to the POTW.

7 7. Every industrial source introducing industrial wastewater to a POTW
8 on or before the effective date of this section, and continuing to do so
9 after such effective date, shall conduct PFAS monitoring quarterly for
10 one year. Such industrial sources shall submit the results of PFAS moni-
11 toring quarterly to the POTW and the department and shall submit their
12 first monitoring results within ninety days of the effective date of
13 this section. Any industrial source that detects any PFAS at a level
14 that the department has determined warrants continued monitoring pursu-
15 ant to subdivision ten of this section shall continue to conduct quar-
16 terly PFAS monitoring and submit such results to the POTW and the
17 department.

18 8. All PFAS monitoring shall be conducted using a PFAS testing method
19 or methods authorized by the department, including but not limited to
20 the federal environmental protection agency's method 1633A. The depart-
21 ment shall authorize additional methods that detect more PFAS or PFAS at
22 lower levels as appropriate.

23 9. The department shall make publicly available on the department's
24 website all PFAS monitoring results submitted to the department by
25 industrial dischargers, industrial sources, and POTWs, including any
26 results submitted by such facilities within six years prior to the
27 effective date of this section. The website shall be updated at least
28 every six months with all new monitoring results received.

29 10. For at least the forty PFAS that can be detected by the federal
30 environmental protection agency's method 1633A, the department shall
31 set, by rule or regulation, detection levels that warrant continued
32 monitoring as required by this section. Such detection levels shall take
33 into account the latest scientific evidence on the risks of PFAS expo-
34 sure.

35 § 4. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
36 law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any
37 rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its
38 effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such
39 effective date.