



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Committee Bill No. 5749**

LCO No. 5658



Referred to Committee on ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by:  
(ENV)

**AN ACT CONCERNING ADVANCED SEPTIC SYSTEMS WITH  
NITROGEN-REMOVAL FEATURES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For purposes of this  
2 section:

3 (1) "Nitrogen-reducing septic system" means a septic system that  
4 incorporates advanced treatment technologies to reduce nitrogen levels  
5 in effluent before discharge into the soil and groundwater;

6 (2) "Environmentally sensitive areas" means those areas designated  
7 by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection where  
8 nitrogen pollution poses a risk to water bodies, including coastal zones,  
9 watershed protection areas and locations near drinking water sources;  
10 and

11 (3) "Conventional septic system" means a standard onsite wastewater  
12 treatment system that does not include nitrogen-reducing technology.

13 (b) (1) On and after October 1, 2026, any new residential or  
14 commercial development in an environmentally sensitive area shall

15 install nitrogen-reducing septic systems that meet the performance  
16 standards set by the Department of Public Health.

17 (2) Any renovation or expansion of an existing residential or  
18 commercial structure that increases wastewater discharge by twenty-  
19 five per cent or more shall require the upgrade to a nitrogen-reducing  
20 septic system.

21 (c) Whenever a conventional septic system in an environmentally  
22 sensitive area fails or requires replacement, the property owner shall be  
23 required to install a nitrogen-reducing septic system in compliance with  
24 the performance standards established by the Department of Public  
25 Health.

26 (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any  
27 municipality from enacting a local ordinance that requires nitrogen-  
28 reducing septic systems in any additional area where nitrogen pollution  
29 poses a risk to water quality.

30 (e) (1) Not later than March 1, 2026, the Department of Public Health,  
31 in consultation with the Department of Energy and Environmental  
32 Protection, shall establish nitrogen-discharge limits for nitrogen-  
33 reducing septic systems to ensure that nitrogen-reducing septic systems  
34 achieve a discharge level comparable to the average discharge level  
35 achievable by such systems that are readily available for consumer  
36 purchase.

37 (2) Not later than March 1, 2026, the Department of Energy and  
38 Environmental Protection shall designate environmentally sensitive  
39 areas.

40 (f) (1) Any nitrogen-reducing septic system shall be installed by a  
41 licensed professional who is certified by the Department of Public  
42 Health to ensure compliance with all applicable state regulations for the  
43 installation of any such system.

44 (2) Any property owner who installs a nitrogen-reducing septic

45 system, or causes such a system to be installed, shall conduct, or cause  
46 to be conducted, an annual inspection and maintenance of such  
47 nitrogen-reducing septic system to ensure continued effectiveness.

48 (3) Each local health department shall maintain a database of  
49 installed nitrogen-reducing septic systems in such applicable areas and  
50 conduct periodic compliance checks of such systems. Such local health  
51 departments may enforce the provisions of this section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2025	New section

***Statement of Purpose:***

To develop programs like those that exist in neighboring states for the installation and use of advanced septic systems that have nitrogen-removal features.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. GAUTHIER, 38th Dist.; REP. MENAPACE, 37th Dist.  
REP. RYAN, 139th Dist.; REP. CHAFEE, 33rd Dist.  
REP. SHANNON, 117th Dist.

H.B. 5749