

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017**

**SESSION LAW 2018-145  
SENATE BILL 469**

AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS TECHNICAL, CLARIFYING, AND CONFORMING CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES AND SESSION LAWS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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**AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN VEGETATIVE  
BUFFERS AND FOR STORMWATER CONTROLS FOR REDEVELOPMENT**

**SECTION 26.(a)** G.S. 143-214.7(b2) reads as rewritten:

"(b2) For purposes of implementing stormwater programs, "built-upon area" means impervious surface and partially impervious surface to the extent that the partially impervious surface does not allow water to infiltrate through the surface and into the subsoil. "Built-upon area" does not include a slatted deck; the water area of a swimming pool; a surface of number 57 stone, as designated by the American Society for Testing and Materials, laid at least four inches thick over a geotextile fabric; a trail as defined in G.S. 113A-85 that is either unpaved or paved as long as the pavement is porous with a hydraulic conductivity greater than 0.001 centimeters per second (1.41 inches per hour); or landscaping material, including, but not limited to, gravel, mulch, sand, and vegetation, placed on areas that receive pedestrian or bicycle traffic or on portions of driveways and parking areas that will not be compacted by the weight of a vehicle, such as the area between sections of pavement that support the weight of a vehicle. The owner or developer of a property may opt out of any of the exemptions from "built-upon area" set out in this subsection. For State stormwater programs and local stormwater programs approved pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, all of the following shall apply:

- (1) The volume, velocity, and discharge rates of water associated with the one-year, 24-hour storm and the difference in stormwater runoff from the predevelopment and postdevelopment conditions for the

one-year, 24-hour storm shall be calculated using any acceptable engineering hydrologic and hydraulic methods.

- (2) Development may occur within the area that would otherwise be required to be placed within a vegetative buffer required by the Commission pursuant to G.S. 143-214.1 and G.S. 143-214.7 ~~to protect classified shellfish waters, outstanding resource waters, and high quality waters~~ provided the stormwater runoff from the entire impervious area of the development is collected and treated from the entire impervious area collected, treated, and discharged so that it passes through a segment of the vegetative buffer and is managed so that it otherwise complies with all applicable State and federal stormwater management requirements.
- (3) The requirements that apply to development activities within one-half mile of and draining to Class SA waters or within one-half mile of Class SA waters and draining to unnamed freshwater tributaries shall not apply to development activities and associated stormwater discharges that do not occur within one-half mile of and draining to Class SA waters or are not within one-half mile of Class SA waters and draining to unnamed freshwater tributaries."

**SECTION 26.(b)** G.S. 143-214.7(b3) reads as rewritten:

"(b3) Stormwater runoff rules and programs shall not require private property owners to install new or increased stormwater controls for (i) preexisting development or (ii) redevelopment activities that do not remove or decrease existing stormwater controls. When a preexisting development is redeveloped, either in whole or in part, increased stormwater controls shall only be required for the amount of impervious surface being created that exceeds the amount of impervious surface that existed before the redevelopment. This subsection applies to all local governments regardless of the source of their regulatory authority. Local governments shall include the requirements of this subsection in their stormwater ordinances."

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Full text of Session Law 2018-145 available at:

<https://www.ncleg.gov/EnactedLegislation/SessionLaws/HTML/2017-2018/SL2018-145.html>