Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman CONNIE WAGNER
District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)
Assemblyman REED GUSCIORA
District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)
Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
District 37 (Bergen)
Assemblyman RUBEN J. RAMOS, JR.
District 33 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblymen Diegnan, Eustace, Benson, Assemblywoman Caride,
Assemblymen McKeon, Cryan, P.Barnes, III, Assemblywoman Spencer,
Assemblyman Johnson, Assemblywomen Jasey, Stender, Assemblymen
O’Donnell, Conaway, Giblin, Senators Gordon, Beck, Greenstein,
Cunningham, Lesniak, Weinberg, Bateman and Buono

SYNOPSIS
Prohibits treatment, discharge, disposal, or storage of wastewater,
wastewater solids, sludge, drill cuttings or other byproducts from natural gas
exploration or production using hydraulic fracturing.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As reported by the Assembly Environment and Solid Waste Committee on
June 14, 2012, with amendments.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/26/2012)
A575 [1R] WAGNER, GUSCIORA

2

AN ACT concerning wastewater, wastewater solids, sludge, drill cuttings or other byproducts from [hydraulic fracturing] certain drilling techniques and supplementing P.L.1977, c.74 (C.58:10A-1 et seq.).

BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:

1. The Legislature finds and declares that the practice of the drilling technique of hydraulic fracturing for natural gas exploration and production has been found to use a variety of contaminating chemicals and materials; that the drilling technique uses vast quantities of water mixed with chemicals and solids pumped into shale formations at high pressure to fracture the shale formations; that millions of gallons of contaminated water flow back out of the well; and that the companies engaging in the use of this drilling technique have been less than forthcoming in revealing the “cocktail” of chemicals and their concentrations and volume.

The Legislature further finds and declares that the treatment of wastewater, wastewater solids, sludge, drill cuttings or other byproducts from the hydraulic fracturing process poses financial, operational, health, and environmental risks to the citizens of the State; that the high concentrations of solids present in hydraulic fracturing wastewater and other wastes may include calcium, magnesium, phosphates, nitrates, sulphates, chloride, barium, cadmium, strontium, dissolved organics such as benzene and toluene, and copper, which would interfere with the processes of wastewater treatment plants by inhibiting the anaerobic digestion processes and disrupting the biological digestion processes; that the heavy metals present may precipitate during the treatment process and contaminate biosolids from the plant, which would require expensive decontamination of drying beds or prevent the usual methods of reuse or disposal of those biosolids; and that no federal or State standards have been adopted governing the treatment and disposal of hydraulic fracturing wastes.

The Legislature further finds and declares that in addition to the chemicals and solids used in the well drilling process, the United States Environmental Protection Agency has noted that radioactive materials have been found in “fairly high concentrations” in hydraulic fracturing wastewater and hydraulic fracturing wastes; that wastewater treatment plants are not designed to treat for radioactivity; that not only does wastewater contaminated with radionuclides pose a risk to public drinking water supplies if not properly treated, but those radioactive materials may also form

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.
Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

1Assembly AEN committee amendments adopted June 14, 2012.
deposits over time in equipment and pipes which would cause a
health risk to plant workers; and that radioactive materials, as well
as heavy metals and other toxic materials, present in hydraulic
fracturing wastewater pose a risk of contamination of the treatment
plant’s biosolids.

The Legislature further finds and declares that in addition to the
dangers and uncertainties for wastewater treatment plants, other
wastes from the hydraulic fracturing process such as drilling mud,
drill cuttings, sludge and concentrated byproducts pose a danger to
the environment and the health and safety of the citizens of the
State; that the chemical content of wastes from hydraulic fracturing
varies based on location of the well and the chemicals injected; that
the regulatory requirements for ultimate treatment and disposal of
such waste are not clear with regard to whether it may be disposed
of at a landfill or must be treated at a wastewater treatment facility;
that such waste has been exempted from many federal hazardous
waste laws even though it contains hazardous materials; that the
waste has been sent to landfills and hazardous waste processing or
recycling facilities even though some of the waste contains
concentrated radioactive liquids, hydrocarbons and toxic pollutants;
and that landfills and treatment facilities in the State are not
designed to accept or treat radioactive materials.

The Legislature therefore determines, in light of the State’s small
size, population density, and heavy reliance on surface waters for
drinking water purposes, it is prudent and in the best interest of the
health, safety and welfare of the people of the State of New Jersey
to prohibit the treatment, discharge, disposal, or storage of
wastewater, wastewater solids, sludge, drill cuttings or other
byproducts resulting from hydraulic fracturing.¹

¹2. As used in this act, “hydraulic fracturing” means the drilling
technique of expanding existing fractures or creating new fractures
in rock by injecting water, often with chemicals, sand, or other
substances, and often under pressure, into or underneath the surface
of the rock for purposes including, but not necessarily limited to,
well drilling and natural gas exploration and production. The term
“hydraulic fracturing” shall include “fracking,” “hydrofracking,”
“hydrofracturing,” and other colloquial terms for this drilling
technique.¹

¹[1. a.] 3.]¹ No wastewater¹, wastewater solids, sludge, drill
cuttings or other byproducts¹ resulting from hydraulic fracturing for
the purpose of natural gas exploration or production in any state
may be treated, discharged, disposed of, or stored in the State.

¹[b.] As used in this section, “hydraulic fracturing” means the
drilling technique of expanding existing fractures or creating new
fractures in rock by injecting water, often with chemicals, sand, or
other substances, and often under pressure, into or underneath the
surface of the rock for purposes including, but not necessarily
limited to, well drilling and natural gas exploration and production.
The term “hydraulic fracturing” shall include “fracking,”
“hydrofracking,” “hydrofracturing,” and other colloquial terms for
this drilling technique."

1 This act shall take effect immediately.