

## NCOWCICB

North Carolina Onsite Wastewater Contractor Inspector Certification Board

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February 24, 2025

### ***Via email only***

Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations

Email: [govops@ncleg.net](mailto:govops@ncleg.net)

Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee

Email: [Virginia.bartlow@ncleg.gov](mailto:Virginia.bartlow@ncleg.gov)

Re: Report on Regulatory Flexibility  
Section 4E.1 of SL 2024-53

Dear Committee Members,

The North Carolina Onsite Wastewater Contractor Inspector Certification Board (the "Board") submits this report on its use of regulatory flexibility, in accordance with Section 4E.1 of Session Law 2024-53.

### Board Overview

The Board is created by Article 5 of Chapter 90A of the North Carolina General Statutes. The Board exists to protect the environment and public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring the integrity and competence of onsite wastewater contractors and inspectors; to require the examination of onsite wastewater contractors and inspectors and the certification of their competency to supervise or conduct the construction, installation, repair or inspection of onsite wastewater systems; to establish minimum standards for ethical conduct, responsibility, training, experience, and continuing education for onsite wastewater system contractors and inspectors; and to provide appropriate enforcement procedures for rules adopted by the Board.

### Session Law 2024-53

Promulgated in October 2024, Session Law 2024-53 provides in Section 4E.1(b) that:

Notwithstanding any other provision of State law, if a State agency determines that, due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene in the affected area, it is in the public interest, including the public health, safety, and welfare and the economic well-being of the citizens and businesses of the affected area, the agency shall do all of the following:

- (1) Delay the renewal dates of employment-related certifications issued by the agency pursuant to its statutes for residents of the affected area.

(2) Delay or modify any educational or examination requirements for employment-related certifications implemented by the agency pursuant to its statutes for residents of the affected area.

In this legislation, the General Assembly directed each State agency in the executive branch of government in North Carolina, no later than March 1, 2025, to report to the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on its use of regulatory flexibility under this Section 4E.

Board Implementation of Session Law 2024-53

Since October 2024, the Board has implemented the directives of SL 2024-53 as follows:

- N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90A-78(a) provides that “all certifications [issued by the Board] shall expire on December 31 of each year unless they are renewed” and that credential holders must “submit the renewal by November 15 annually.” Following Hurricane Helene, the Board extended the deadline to submit the renewal application for credential holders in affected areas, as defined by Sessional Law 2024-53, from November 15, 2024 to February 15, 2025, and extended the expiration date of their Board-issued credentials from December 31, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

Please contact me directly at [cstephens@ncowcicb.info](mailto:cstephens@ncowcicb.info) with any questions.

Regards,



Connie S. Stephens  
Executive Director