

Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

HB 1143 — Permits for Drilling, Exploration, and Extraction of Oil and Gas Resources

by Reps. Shoaf and Tant (SB 1300 by Senators Simon and Brodeur)

The bill prohibits drilling, exploration, or production of oil, gas, or other petroleum products within areas of counties designated as rural areas of opportunity that are within 10 miles of a national estuarine research reserve.

The bill also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to consider certain factors when determining whether natural resources of certain bodies of water and shore areas are adequately protected from potential accidents or blowouts from oil or gas drilling and exploration activities. Specifically, the department's evaluation must consider the ecological community's current condition, hydrologic connection, uniqueness, location, fish and wildlife use, time lag, and the potential costs of restoration.

If approved by the Governor, or allowed to become law without the Governor's signature, these provisions take effect July 1, 2025.

Vote: Senate 37-1; House 109-0