



SPONSOR: Sen. Lopez & Sen. Hansen & Rep. Schwartzkopf &  
Rep. Baumbach  
Sens. Ennis, Hocker, Lavelle, Sokola; Reps. Gray,  
Hudson, Keeley, Kowalko, Lynn, Osienski, Paradee,  
B. Short

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE BILL NO. 200

AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO OFFSHORE DRILLING AND THE  
COASTAL ZONE.

1 WHEREAS, the Natural Resources Defense Council has recognized Delaware beaches with the highest national  
2 ranking for beach water quality as the state ranked 1st out of 30 states for the cleanest water quality overall; and

3 WHEREAS, Rehoboth Beach and Dewey Beach have received individualized honors by receiving the highest  
4 possible rating, 5 stars, by the Natural Resources Defense Council for perfect swimming water quality; and

5 WHEREAS, the Delaware Tourism office states that one in nine workers in the state owes his or her job to  
6 tourism; and

7 WHEREAS, the Delaware tourism industry is the 4th largest private employer in the state, accounting for 42,750  
8 jobs; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2016, tourism contributed \$3 billion to Delaware's gross domestic product, and the industry  
10 generated \$470 million in taxes and fees for state and local government; and

11 WHEREAS, without tourism, each Delaware household would pay an additional \$1,434 in taxes; and

12 WHEREAS, a large percentage of our tourism in Delaware is directly related to our beaches and coastal regions,  
13 therefore, it is of utmost importance that we take steps to keep our beaches and coastal regions pristine and protect the  
14 industry that they create within our state.

15 NOW, THEREFORE:

16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

17 Section 1. Amend § 7003, Title 7 of the Delaware Code by making deletions as shown by strikethrough and  
18 insertions as shown by underline as follows:

19 § 7003. Uses absolutely prohibited in the coastal zone.

20 (a) Except as provided by § 7014 of this title, heavy industry uses of any kind not in operation on June 28, 1971,  
21 are prohibited in the coastal zone and no permits may be issued therefor. In addition, offshore gas, liquid or solid bulk  
22 product transfer facilities which are not in operation on June 28, 1971, are prohibited in the coastal zone, and no permit may

23 be issued therefor, except as provided in § 7014 of this title. The prohibitions in this section shall not apply to public  
24 sewage treatment or recycling plants. An incinerator is neither "public sewage treatment" nor a "recycling plant" for the  
25 purpose of this chapter.

26 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, offshore drilling for oil and  
27 natural gas shall be prohibited in the coastal zone and any other State waters and no permit may be issued for or in  
28 connection with the development or operation of any facility or infrastructure associated with offshore drilling for oil or  
29 natural gas, whether proposed for within or outside of Delaware's territorial waters.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Act prohibits drilling for oil or natural gas in Delaware's coastal zone and territorial waters and precludes DNREC from issuing any permits in connection with the development of offshore drilling infrastructure, whether proposed for Delaware territorial waters or waters outside of the State.

Author: Senator Lopez