



Eric Vendel

Bill Analysis
Legislative Service Commission

H.B. 491

125th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Reps. Skindell, D. Stewart, Cirelli, Fessler, Miller, Brown, Barrett, Harwood, S. Smith, Key, Domenick, S. Patton, Perry, Chandler, Ujvagi, Carano, Strahorn, Jerse

BILL SUMMARY

- Creates the High-level Radioactive Waste Transportation Study Commission to review and evaluate issues relating to the transportation of high-level radioactive waste in Ohio.
- Requires the Commission to send a preliminary report and a final report containing its findings and recommendations to legislative leadership and the Governor within specified times.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill creates the High-level Radioactive Waste Transportation Study Commission consisting of 14 members, six of whom must be as follows: two members of the House of Representatives, one of whom must be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and one of whom must be appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; two members of the Senate, one of whom must be appointed by the President of the Senate and one of whom must be appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; and one person representing the commercial nuclear power industry in Ohio and one person representing the public, both of whom must be appointed by the Governor. The Director of Agriculture, the Director of Commerce, the Director of Environmental Protection, the Director of Health, the chairperson of the Public Utilities Commission, and the executive director of the Emergency Management Agency must be nonvoting *ex officio* members of the Commission. Each of these members may designate an employee of the member's department, commission, or agency to serve on the Commission in the member's place as the member's designee. Of the remaining two members, one voting member must be selected by the Ohio Environmental Council and one voting member must be selected by the

Ohio chapter of the American Federation of Labor--Congress of Industrial Organizations. (Section 1(A).)

The bill requires all initial appointments and selections to the Commission to be made not later than 60 days after the bill's effective date. Vacancies must be filled in the same manner provided for original appointments and selections. (Section 1(A).)

The Commission must elect from among its members a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and any other officers that it considers advisable. Five of the voting members constitute a quorum. Members of the Commission must serve without compensation. The Emergency Management Agency is required to provide any staff or services that the Commission may require. (Section 1(A).)

The bill requires the Commission to study and review the state and local issues relating to the transportation of high-level radioactive waste in Ohio. In performing the study and review, the Commission must do all of the following:

(1) Identify the relevant issues, including notification, escorts, permits, inspections, and transportation routes;

(2) Review and evaluate existing state and local public safety personnel training programs for responding to radioactive material transport accidents so as to identify any deficiencies in that training, and formulate recommendations of how to correct those deficiencies;

(3) Determine whether state and local public safety personnel who would be involved in responding to a radioactive material transport accident have the proper safety equipment to respond to such an accident;

(4) Determine what steps should be taken to ensure the safe transportation of shipments of high-level radioactive waste in Ohio;

(5) Identify those aspects relating to the transport of high-level radioactive waste in Ohio in which cooperation with the federal government, regional and interstate organizations and agencies, and other state governments is desirable, essential, or required; and

(6) Make legislative and agency rule recommendations to ensure the safe transportation of high-level radioactive waste in Ohio. (Section 1(B).)

Not later than eight months after the effective date of the bill, the Commission must issue a preliminary report containing its preliminary findings and recommendations and send a copy to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the minority leader of the House of Representatives, the President

of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, and the Governor. (Section 1(C).) Not later than 18 months after the bill's effective date, the Commission must issue a final report containing its final findings and recommendations. The final report must be distributed in the same manner as the preliminary report. Upon the issuance of the final report or 24 months after the bill's effective date, whichever occurs first, the Commission ceases to exist. (Section 1(D).)

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE	JOURNAL ENTRY
Introduced	05-11-04	p. 1875

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