

HCS SS SCS SB 976 -- RADIOACTIVE WASTE

SPONSOR: Gibbons (Robb)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Conservation and Natural Resources by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute allows the Department of Natural Resources to collect fees from any entity, except institutions of higher education and the federal government, that ships radioactive waste through or within the state. Institutions of higher education will reimburse the State Highway Patrol directly for the costs incurred in transporting the waste. The fees collected will be deposited into the Environmental Radiation Monitoring Fund and used to pay the administrative costs and other costs associated with the safety and security of the waste shipments. Advance notice of any transport must be given to the Governor's designee or the department, depending on the type of waste. The department will submit a report on the activities of the fund to the General Assembly by December 31, 2007, and every two years thereafter.

Any shipper who fails to pay the assessed fees or provide notice of a transport will be liable in a civil action for an amount not to exceed 10 times the amount of the assessed fee.

The substitute contains an emergency clause.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on General Revenue Fund in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009. Estimated Income on Other State Funds of \$19,309 to \$44,421 in FY 2007, \$19,522 to \$45,547 in FY 2008, and \$20,016 to \$46,707 in FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill establishes fees on shipments of radioactive waste which are similar to those of surrounding states. The fees will be used to ensure the safe transport of waste across the state.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Gibbons; Department of Natural Resources; and Sierra Club.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Kristina Jenkins, Legislative Analyst