

HB 71 -- Transportation of Radioactive Waste

Sponsor: Baker (25)

This bill requires all entities which ship radioactive waste to be assessed a fee for the waste transported through or within the state except for universities which ship nuclear waste. Those universities will be required to reimburse the Department of Transportation for costs associated with shipment escorts. The types of radioactive waste and the fee structure are specified in the bill; and the Department of Natural Resources, in coordination with the departments of Health and Senior Services and Public Safety, may promulgate rules with regard to the collection and administration of the fees.

Any shipper who fails to pay a fee or provide notice of a shipment to the Department of Natural Resources will be liable for a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed 10 times the amount of the original assessed fee. Radioactive waste being shipped by or for the federal government for military or national defense purposes are exempt from the fees and notification requirements.

The fees will be deposited into the Environmental Radiation Monitoring Fund to enforce the provisions of the bill. The purposes for expenditures from the fund are specified, and the Department of Natural Resources must prepare a report on the activities of the fund for the General Assembly beginning December 31, 2008, and every two years thereafter.

The provisions of the bill will expire six years from the effective date.

The bill contains an emergency clause.