

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

H.R.

1012

By: Representative Collier

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF LOCAL FIRE
DEPARTMENTS IN HANDLING HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL INCIDENTS AND
TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL METHODS FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO
LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

WHEREAS, hazardous chemicals are transported within the state every day
and hazardous chemical incidents occur every week; and

WHEREAS, ninety percent of the incidents involving hazardous chemicals
require a response by local fire departments; and

WHEREAS, over ninety percent of the local fire departments in this state
are unable to buy the expensive but necessary equipment to handle such
hazardous chemical incidents that occur in and around their city, town, or
district; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Fire Fighters Association passed a resolution
in support of a tax on hazardous chemicals transported within the State of
Arkansas, excluding motor fuels and home heating fuels, the imposition of
fines for hazardous chemical incidents, and the use of the taxes and fines for
the purpose of providing revenue to fund hazardous chemical response teams in
all counties and to provide proper equipment and training necessary to handle
these dangerous incidents;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT a study be conducted by the appropriate joint interim committee, as
determined by the Arkansas Legislative Council, to examine the needs of local
fire departments in handling hazardous chemical incidents and to explore
potential methods of providing funds to assist local fire departments in

providing hazardous chemical response teams in all counties and to provide proper equipment and training necessary to handle chemical incidents. In studying this matter, the committee shall consider the possibility of imposing a tax on hazardous chemicals transported either by road or rail within the state, imposing fines on hazardous chemical carriers who are involved in chemical incidents, and using the revenues generated for the purpose of providing needed revenues to assist local fire departments.