

State of Arkansas
93rd General Assembly
Regular Session, 2021

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1890

By: Representative Ladyman

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE A STUDY ON THE COMMERCIAL APPLICATION OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGY TO RECLAIM AND REPURPOSE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL RODS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO CREATE A STUDY ON THE COMMERCIAL APPLICATION OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGY TO RECLAIM AND REPURPOSE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL RODS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings – Legislative study of and report on commercial application of existing technology to reclaim and repurpose spent nuclear fuel rods – Creation – Purpose.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

(1) In August 2016, the Argonne National Laboratory hosted a delegation from Arkansas, including staff from the Arkansas Economic Development Commission;

(2) In January 2017, the Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission issued a recommendation to Governor Asa Hutchinson to support the University of Arkansas and the United States Department of Energy national laboratories to prepare and make recommendations and to offer options on using existing technology to convert spent nuclear fuel rods into new nuclear fuel;

(3) In August 2017, the Joint Committee on Energy held hearings



on advanced nuclear technology to reprocess spent nuclear fuel rods and unanimously approved an interim study resolution on the matter; and

(4) In August 2018, the Joint Committee on Energy held a meeting at Arkansas Nuclear One and further discussed the issues under subdivision (a)(1)-(3) of this section, including without limitation that the:

(A) University of Arkansas system, in conjunction with other institutions of higher education, can and are willing to provide a detailed analysis examining the benefits of "New Nuclear" compared to the risks of continued storage of spent fuel at Arkansas Nuclear One;

(B) Fast reactor technology and electrochemical spent fuel reprocessing is ready for commercial development; and

(C) The Department of Health and the Department of Energy and Environment support the application for funding the establishment of an education, risk analysis, and optimization design program.

(b) The House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall meet jointly to conduct a study on the commercial application of existing technology to reclaim and repurpose spent nuclear fuel rods.

(c)(1) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall call the first meeting for the purpose of beginning the study required by this section within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act.

(2) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall meet jointly at least one (1) time every two (2) months in order to conduct the study but may meet more often at the call of the chairs.

(d) If the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor determine that it is necessary, the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor may contract with one (1) or more outside consultants to assist the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor with their study.

(e)(1) The purpose of the study required under this section is to study the commercial application of existing technology to reclaim and

repurpose spent nuclear fuel rods.

(2) The study required under this section shall include without limitation:

(A) An assessment of a specific program to offer to the federal government to include a proposed location in Arkansas and for the assets required to close the nuclear fuel cycle and request funding for the establishment of an education, risk analysis, and optimization design program; and

(B) The assembly of a team of interested stakeholders with expertise to submit a funding application to the United States Department of Energy, including without limitation individuals from the:

(i) General Assembly;

(ii) Executive department;

(iii) University of Arkansas; and

(iv) Argonne National Laboratory.

(f) On or before December 1, 2022, the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall file with the Legislative Council a final written report of their activities, findings, and recommendations.

(g) The study required under this section shall be complete upon submission of the final written report to the Legislative Council required under subsection (f) of this section.