

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

As Engrossed: H3/19/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1572

5 By: Representatives Ladyman, Unger, Beck, S. Meeks
6 By: Senators M. McKee, C. Penzo, Gilmore
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO CREATE A TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY ON NEW
10 NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY;
11 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
13

Subtitle

15 TO CREATE A TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY
16 ON NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION; AND TO
17 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
18

19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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21 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE.

22 (a) Within sixty (60) days after the effective date of this act, the
23 Department of Energy and Environment shall engage an outside consulting firm
24 to conduct a technical feasibility study on implementing nuclear energy
25 generation in this state.

26 (b) The consulting firm hired under subsection (a) of this section
27 shall:

28 (1) Be well-established in the nuclear industry;

29 (2) Have a large majority of United States nuclear operators as
30 its customers;

31 (3) Have had nuclear licensing as its primary business for a
32 substantial length of time;

33 (4) Be staffed with nuclear energy and nuclear law experts; and

34 (5) Be neutral with regard to reactor technology and designs.

35 (c) Preference shall be given to a consulting firm that is managed by
36 and owned in substantial part by military veterans with nuclear operating



1 experience from the military veterans' time in military service.

2 (d) The feasibility study shall determine:

3 (1) The advantages and disadvantages of nuclear energy
4 generation in this state, including without limitation the economic and
5 environmental impact;

6 (2) Conclusions and recommendations on:

7 (A) Optimal design specifications based on site
8 characteristics and possible industrial uses;

9 (B) Land and siting criteria, including specific areas
10 that are best suited for new nuclear generation;

11 (C) Safety criteria required;

12 (D) Engineering services required; and

13 (E) The feasibility of implementing a small modular
14 nuclear reactor and microreactor;

15 (3) Socioeconomic assessment and impact analysis, including
16 without limitation consideration of the impact on:

17 (A) Workforce education, training, and development;

18 (B) The local and state tax base;

19 (C) Supply chains; and

20 (D) Permanent and temporary job creation;

21 (4) The timeline for development, including areas of potential
22 acceleration or efficiencies and leveraging existing facilities within this
23 state;

24 (5) Literature review of studies that have assessed the
25 potential impact of nuclear energy generation in supporting an energy
26 transition; and

27 (6) Current and future policies that may be needed to support or
28 accelerate the adoption of nuclear energy generation or may improve its cost-
29 effectiveness, including a survey of federal programs and other methods that
30 could financially assist a nuclear project in this state.

31 (e) The department, electric cooperatives, and municipally owned
32 utilities shall cooperate in providing information relevant to the
33 feasibility study as needed, subject to notifications to stakeholders and
34 reasonable safeguards to protect confidential information from being made
35 public.

36 (f) No later than fifteen (15) months after the effective date of this

1 act, the department shall deliver a written report on the feasibility study
2 to the:

- 3 (1) Governor;
- 4 (2) President Pro Tempore of the Senate;
- 5 (3) Majority leader of the Senate;
- 6 (4) Minority leader of the Senate;
- 7 (5) Speaker of the House of Representatives;
- 8 (6) Majority leader of the House of Representatives;
- 9 (7) Minority leader of the House of Representatives; and
- 10 (8) Chairpersons of the Joint Committee on Energy.

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12 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 13 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that there is not a continuous
 14 adequate supply of power to Arkansas citizens and businesses; that a
 15 technical feasibility study of new nuclear energy generation could provide
 16 valuable information as to how to maintain a continuous adequate supply of
 17 power to Arkansas citizens and businesses; and that this act is immediately
 18 necessary because maintaining a continuous adequate supply of power to
 19 Arkansas citizens and businesses is vital. Therefore, an emergency is
 20 declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the
 21 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective
 22 on:

- 23 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
- 24 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
 25 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
 26 bill; or
- 27 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 28 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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30 /s/Ladyman