

1 State of Arkansas As Engrossed: H3/19/25 H3/31/25

2 95th General Assembly

# A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1572

4

5 By: Representatives Ladyman, Unger, Beck, S. Meeks

6 By: Senators M. McKee, C. Penzo, Gilmore

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## 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.

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## Subtitle

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TO CREATE A TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY STUDY

16

ON NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION; AND TO

17

DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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(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