

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

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 AND LEGAL FEASIBILITY
10 STUDY ON NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION; TO DECLARE AN
11 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
12
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Subtitle

15 TO CREATE A TECHNICAL AND LEGAL
16 FEASIBILITY STUDY ON NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY
17 GENERATION; AND TO 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 thirty (30) days after the effective date of this act, the
23 Arkansas Public Service Commission shall engage an outside consulting firm to
24 conduct a technical and legal feasibility study on promoting 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 consider:

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) Ways to maximize the use of workers who reside in this state
7 and products made in this state in the construction of nuclear energy
8 generation facilities;

9 (3) Evaluations, conclusions, and recommendations on:

10 (A) Design characteristics and evaluation, including
11 specific recommendations of optimal designs based on site characteristics and
12 possible industrial uses;

13 (B) Environmental and ecological impacts;

14 (C) Land and siting criteria, including specific areas
15 that are best suited for new nuclear generation based on the land and siting
16 criteria;

17 (D) Safety criteria;

18 (E) Engineering and cost-related criteria; and

19 (F) Small modular nuclear reactor and microreactor
20 capability;

21 (4) Socioeconomic assessment and impact analysis, including
22 without limitation consideration of the impact on:

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

24 (B) Local and state tax base;

25 (C) Supply chains; and

26 (D) Permanent and temporary job creation;

27 (5) The timeline for development, including areas of potential
28 acceleration or efficiencies and leveraging existing facilities within this
29 state;

30 (6) Additional efficiencies and other benefits that may be
31 gained by coordinating with other advanced, clean energy technologies,
32 including without limitation hydrogen, direct air capture of carbon dioxide,
33 and energy storage;

34 (7) Literature review of studies that have assessed the
35 potential impact of nuclear energy generation in supporting an energy
36 transition;

1 (8) Analysis of national and international studies of cases
2 where development of nuclear energy is supported and adopted; and

3 (9) Assessment and recommendation of current and future policies
4 that may be needed to support or accelerate the adoption of nuclear energy
5 generation or may improve its cost-effectiveness, including a survey of
6 federal programs and other methods that could financially assist a nuclear
7 project in this state.

8 (e) The commission, electric cooperatives, and municipally owned
9 utilities shall cooperate in providing information relevant to the
10 feasibility study as needed, subject to notifications to stakeholders and
11 reasonable safeguards to protect confidential information from being made
12 public.

13 (f) No later than fifteen (15) months after the effective date of this
14 act, the commission shall deliver a written report on the feasibility study
15 to the:

16 (1) Governor;

17 (2) President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

18 (3) Senate majority leader;

19 (4) Senate minority leader;

20 (5) Speaker of the House of Representatives;

21 (6) Majority leader of the House of Representatives;

22 (7) Minority leader of the House of Representatives; and

23 (8) Chairpersons of the Joint Committee on Energy.

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25 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
26 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that this act is immediately
27 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.
28 Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately
29 necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall
30 become effective on:

31 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

32 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
33 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
34 bill; or

35 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
36 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.