

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

A Bill

SENATE BILL 645

5 By: Senator Crowell
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For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING NATURAL RESOURCES;
10 TO CONDUCT A STUDY RELATED TO CRITICAL MINERALS; AND
11 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO CONDUCT A STUDY RELATED TO CRITICAL
15 MINERALS.
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18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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20 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings – Study.

21 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) Critical minerals are essential for various industries,
23 including without limitation energy, defense, and technology;

24 (2) Ensuring energy independence for the United States requires
25 a diversified approach, including without limitation supply chain
26 diversification and capital investment attractiveness in value-added
27 manufacturing;

28 (3) Lithium recovery projects are recognized as essential to the
29 continued growth and development of Arkansas’s critical energy resources and
30 the prosperity of its citizens;

31 (4) Global demand for lithium is expected to quadruple by 2030,
32 necessitating proactive efforts to support domestic lithium production to
33 reduce reliance on foreign imports and bolster energy security;

34 (5) Encouraging lithium recovery will provide economic benefits
35 to Arkansas, attract investment, create jobs, and strengthen the state’s
36 industrial and manufacturing base;



1 (6) Reducing statutory and regulatory roadblocks, including
2 those related to state and local taxes, permit fees, payments,
3 infrastructure, and workforce development, will create an optimal economic
4 ecosystem to support lithium recovery and related industries; and

5 (7) Arkansas's first-mover advantage is being threatened by an
6 increase of lithium exploration and development opportunities in Louisiana,
7 Texas, and other states where policymakers are enacting incentives and taking
8 steps to provide regulatory certainty.

9 (b)(1) The General Assembly shall conduct a study to evaluate the
10 state's national and global competitiveness in attracting lithium recovery
11 projects and related value-added manufacturing and supply-chain activities.

12 (2) The study required under subdivision (b)(1) of this section
13 shall:

14 (A) Assess the competitiveness of Arkansas using a matrix
15 consistent with factors utilized by companies engaged in lithium recovery and
16 related activities;

17 (B) Identify potential developmental impediments,
18 including without limitation state and local taxes, permit fees, payments,
19 regulatory burdens, and other government-induced or imposed activities;

20 (C) Evaluate infrastructure needs, including without
21 limitation rail, roads, water supply, and electricity transmission and
22 distribution necessary for lithium recovery and processing projects;

23 (D) Examine workforce availability and training programs
24 to ensure a skilled labor force to support the lithium industry; and

25 (E) Provide recommendations to enhance Arkansas's
26 attractiveness for investment in lithium recovery and associated value-added
27 manufacturing.

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