

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

A Bill

SENATE BILL 645

By: Senator Crowell

Filed with: Senate Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development
pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

For An Act To Be Entitled

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

Subtitle

TO CONDUCT A STUDY RELATED TO CRITICAL
MINERALS.

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

SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings – Study.

(a) The General Assembly finds that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Referred by Senator Crowell

Prepared by: CRH/CRH