

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2015-157

REQUESTING THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO REFER TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR A STUDY OF THE PRESENT STATUTORY FRAMEWORK REGARDING WASTE TIRES WITH THE GOAL OF FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS THAT ESCAPE THE EXISTING FRAMEWORK.

WHEREAS, although Arkansas created in 1991 a statewide program to protect the public health and the state's environmental quality by setting and implementing standards to be followed in the hauling, storage, recycling, and disposal of waste tires, problems with waste tires continue to affect public health and safety and the environment in this state; and

WHEREAS, waste tire dumps can attract rodents and mosquitoes, create the danger of disease, and present serious fire hazard; and in recent days, a fire erupted in an illegal waste tire dump in Southeast Pulaski County; and

WHEREAS, in recent days, a fire erupted in an illegal waste tire dump in Southeast Pulaski County; and

WHEREAS, according to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality that fire caused chemicals in the tires to break down and leak into the ground; and

WHEREAS, the department reported that any groundwater contamination resulting from the fire would fall under Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality solid waste regulations, but the site is not considered a hazardous waste dump; and

WHEREAS, the fire erupted despite the repeated attempts of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to contact the owners of the property to begin the process of remediation; and

1 WHEREAS, this fire and its consequences occurred despite the extensive
2 statutory framework presently in place in this state and despite the long
3 struggle by state and local to control illegal waste tire dumps; and
4

5 WHEREAS, a study by the Southern Legislative Conference shows that new
6 legislation is needed across the region to confront the continuing problem of
7 illegal waste tire dumping,
8

9 NOW THEREFORE,

10 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE ARKANSAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE NINETIETH GENERAL
11 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
12

13 THAT the Arkansas Legislative Council of the Ninetieth Arkansas General
14 Assembly refer to the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor a
15 study of the present statutory framework regarding waste tires with the goal
16 of finding solutions to the continuing problems that escape the existing
17 framework.
18

19 Respectfully submitted,
20
21
22

23 Senator Linda Chesterfield
24 District 30
25
26

27 By: MGF/LNS
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36