

State of Arkansas

77th General Assembly

Regular Session, 1989

H.R.

1001

By: Representatives Gibson and Schexnayder

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE OR COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY TO DETERMINE THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ONE OR MORE SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES IN THE STATE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF GARBAGE, TRASH AND OTHER SOLID WASTE FROM OTHER STATES WOULD HAVE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND IMAGE OF THE STATE AND ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE CITIZENS OF THIS STATE; TO REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF POLLUTION CONTROL AND ECOLOGY TAKE NO ACTION WHATSOEVER UPON ANY APPLICATIONS BY PERSONS, PRIVATE FIRMS OR CORPORATIONS RESPECTING THE SAME; AND TO REQUEST THE TASK FORCE OR COMMISSION TO REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR APPROPRIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTION.

WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of the General Assembly that various private firms, corporations and persons are proposing to locate solid waste disposal landfill facilities in various areas of the state to be used for disposing of garbage, trash and other solid waste originating from outside the borders of the state of Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such facilities for disposing of out-of-state solid waste could pose a serious threat to the positive image of the state as one of unpolluted and natural beauty and unparalleled natural resources, as well as to the public health and welfare of the citizens of this state; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such facilities could pose a threat to our state's clean water; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of any such facilities may pose a threat to local school districts and other political subdivisions in the state by bringing about a reduction in local land values and thereby a reduction in

revenues derived from local tax levies; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of such facilities could conceivably have a detrimental effect on the tourist industry in the state; and

WHEREAS, it is the consensus of the House of Representatives that an overall comprehensive study should be made for the purpose of providing information regarding the general impact on the state of Arkansas and its citizens of the establishment of such solid waste or garbage disposal facilities in the state in order that the General Assembly will have appropriate information on which to base a decision concerning the enactment of legislation to establish an overall public policy and procedure to be followed in matters relating to the establishment of such facilities, and that no action should be taken by the state's agencies concerning the establishment of such facilities, until a public policy is established concerning the same, NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

That the Governor is hereby requested to appoint a task force or commission to be composed of representatives of business, industry, environmental interests, tourism interests, and other interested citizens' groups to make a thorough study to determine the overall impact on the entire state of Arkansas of the establishment of solid waste disposal facilities by private persons, firms and corporations for the disposal of garbage, trash and other solid waste brought into the state from other states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution does not apply to any compacts among states of which this state is a party for the mutual disposal of their low level radioactive waste.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to report its findings and recommendations, together with any proposed legislation, to the Seventy-Eighth General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Pollution Control and Ecology and other state agencies having any authority or responsibility with respect to the establishment of such facilities or issuing permits or licenses are hereby encouraged to take no action whatsoever, favorable or unfavorable, concerning the establishment of such solid waste disposal facilities or any applications to do so until the task force or commission appointed by the Governor of Arkansas has made its report and recommendations to the General

Assembly and the General Assembly has had an opportunity to enact appropriate legislation establishing an overall state policy regarding this matter.