

1 State of Arkansas
2 93rd General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2021
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1890

5 By: Representative Ladyman
6

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE A STUDY ON THE COMMERCIAL
9 APPLICATION OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGY TO RECLAIM AND
10 REPURPOSE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL RODS; AND FOR OTHER
11 PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

14 TO CREATE A STUDY ON THE COMMERCIAL
15 APPLICATION OF EXISTING TECHNOLOGY TO
16 RECLAIM AND REPURPOSE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL
17 RODS.
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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23 SECTION 1. TEMPORARY LANGUAGE. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings -
24 Legislative study of and report on commercial application of existing
25 technology to reclaim and repurpose spent nuclear fuel rods - Creation -
26 Purpose.

27 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

28 (1) In August 2016, the Argonne National Laboratory hosted a
29 delegation from Arkansas, including staff from the Arkansas Economic
30 Development Commission;

31 (2) In January 2017, the Arkansas Alternative Energy Commission
32 issued a recommendation to Governor Asa Hutchinson to support the University
33 of Arkansas and the United States Department of Energy national laboratories
34 to prepare and make recommendations and to offer options on using existing
35 technology to convert spent nuclear fuel rods into new nuclear fuel;

36 (3) In August 2017, the Joint Committee on Energy held hearings



1 on advanced nuclear technology to reprocess spent nuclear fuel rods and
2 unanimously approved an interim study resolution on the matter; and

3 (4) In August 2018, the Joint Committee on Energy held a meeting
4 at Arkansas Nuclear One and further discussed the issues under subdivision
5 (a)(1)-(3) of this section, including without limitation that the:

6 (A) University of Arkansas system, in conjunction with
7 other institutions of higher education, can and are willing to provide a
8 detailed analysis examining the benefits of "New Nuclear" compared to the
9 risks of continued storage of spent fuel at Arkansas Nuclear One;

10 (B) Fast reactor technology and electrochemical spent fuel
11 reprocessing is ready for commercial development; and

12 (C) The Department of Health and the Department of Energy
13 and Environment support the application for funding the establishment of an
14 education, risk analysis, and optimization design program.

15 (b) The House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and the
16 Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall meet jointly to
17 conduct a study on the commercial application of existing technology to
18 reclaim and repurpose spent nuclear fuel rods.

19 (c)(1) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
20 Labor and the Chair of the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
21 Labor shall call the first meeting for the purpose of beginning the study
22 required by this section within sixty (60) days of the effective date of this
23 act.

24 (2) The Chair of the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare,
25 and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor shall
26 meet jointly at least one (1) time every two (2) months in order to conduct
27 the study but may meet more often at the call of the chairs.

28 (d) If the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and
29 the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor determine that it
30 is necessary, the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor and
31 the Senate Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor may contract with
32 one (1) or more outside consultants to assist the House Committee on Public
33 Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health,
34 Welfare, and Labor with their study.

35 (e)(1) The purpose of the study required under this section is to
36 study the commercial application of existing technology to reclaim and

1 repurpose spent nuclear fuel rods.

2 (2) The study required under this section shall include without
 3 limitation:

4 (A) An assessment of a specific program to offer to the
 5 federal government to include a proposed location in Arkansas and for the
 6 assets required to close the nuclear fuel cycle and request funding for the
 7 establishment of an education, risk analysis, and optimization design
 8 program; and

9 (B) The assembly of a team of interested stakeholders with
 10 expertise to submit a funding application to the United States Department of
 11 Energy, including without limitation individuals from the:

- 12 (i) General Assembly;
- 13 (ii) Executive department;
- 14 (iii) University of Arkansas; and
- 15 (iv) Argonne National Laboratory.

16 (f) On or before December 1, 2022, the House Committee on Public
 17 Health, Welfare, and Labor and the Senate Committee on Public Health,
 18 Welfare, and Labor shall file with the Legislative Council a final written
 19 report of their activities, findings, and recommendations.

20 (g) The study required under this section shall be complete upon
 21 submission of the final written report to the Legislative Council required
 22 under subsection (f) of this section.

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