

HCS HBs 516, 290 & 778 -- RADIOACTIVE WASTE INVESTIGATION FUND  
(Matthiesen)

COMMITTEE OF ORIGIN: Special Committee on Intergovernmental  
Affairs

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources must use the Radioactive Waste Investigation Fund to investigate concerns of waste exposure submitted by a local governing body. Under this bill, requests for investigations may be submitted in writing by any local governing body, community group, or individual in the jurisdiction of an area of concern. The bill allows the Fund to accept gifts, bequests, and other devises of funds without limitation. This bill prevents the use of the fund for any costs related to clean up efforts.

This bill specifies that the investigation may include collection of soil, dust, and water samples from the area. If the Department suspects that radioactive contaminants are on a property owned by a governmental agency that will not grant access for the investigation, the Department can seek a warrant to access the property. If the suspected contaminants are on private property, the Department must have the owner's permission to enter and test.

Currently, there is a \$150,000 cap on expenditures for investigation costs. This bill eliminates the cap and requires the Department to seek reimbursement from the federal government for radioactive waste cleanup costs.

This bill is similar to HCS HB 1673 (2024).