

SS SCS HCS HBs 516, 290 & 778 -- RADIOACTIVE WASTE INVESTIGATION  
FUND

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 can 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 can include collection of soil, dust, and water samples from the specified 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.

Beginning August 28, 2025, moneys to the Fund will no longer be transferred from the hazardous waste fund and will instead be transferred to the Fund from the General Revenue Fund not to exceed \$150,000 per year unless the General Assembly authorizes an excess amount.

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 testing costs.