
DIGEST

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HB 290 Reengrossed

2019 Regular Session

Pugh

Abstract: Requires a shipper of hazardous materials be held accountable for remedial actions taken in cleaning up any discharge or disposal of hazardous materials. Defines the term "shipper".

Present law holds any person who has transported a hazardous material, hazardous substance, or a hazardous waste liable to the state for costs of remedial action taken in cleaning up any discharge or disposal at a pollution source or facility if the transporter directly caused the discharge or disposal.

Proposed law extends present law to apply to shippers if the shipper directly causes the discharge or disposal.

Present law authorizes the secretary to order any transporter causing a discharge or disposal of a hazardous material, hazardous substance, or hazardous waste to take any remedial actions necessary to contain, abate, cleanup, restore, or remove the discharge or disposal.

Proposed law extends present law to apply to shippers.

Present law requires the transporter, by court order, to pay a penalty of 25% of the amount determined to be remedial costs when the state has to sue the transporter to recover remedial costs or obtain remedial action.

Proposed law extends present law to apply to shippers.

Present law allows a transporter undertaking remedial action for discharge or disposal caused by or contributed to by other transporters or persons to bring suit against any other transporter or person for the costs of remedial actions attributable to that transporter or person.

Proposed law extends present law to apply to shippers if a shipper is undertaking remedial action for discharge or disposal caused by or contributed to by a transporter, person, or other shipper.

Proposed law exempts a shipper of any hazardous material, substance, or waste as a responsible party to any discharge or disposal during transport to the extent the discharge or disposal resulted from circumstances or conditions beyond his control.

Proposed law prevents a shipper's payment of remedial costs or performance of any remedial action pursuant to present law to be determinative of fault or liability in any matter provided for in present law, including any suit for reimbursement pursuant to present law.

Proposed law defines "shipper" as a person, partnership, association, or corporation who tenders hazardous materials, hazardous substances, or hazardous waste to a motor carrier, railway, or driver of a commercial motor vehicle for transportation in interstate or intrastate commerce, or by sea, railway, or air.

(Amends R.S. 32:1519(A), (B), and (C)(1); Adds R.S. 32:1519(D) and (E)(6))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Clarify that a shipper of any hazardous material, substance, or waste is exempt from being considered to have caused or contributed to any discharge or disposal during transport if the discharge or disposal resulted from circumstances or conditions beyond his control.
3. Add railway as an entity that may receive and transport hazardous materials, substances, or waste, and add rail as a mode of transportation that may be used to transport hazardous materials, substances, or waste.

The House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill:

1. Make a technical change.
2. Clarify that a shipper of any hazardous material, substance, or waste is exempt from being considered to have caused or contributed to any discharge or disposal during transport to the extent the discharge or disposal resulted from circumstances or conditions beyond his control.
3. Prevent a shipper's payment of remedial costs or performance of any remedial action pursuant to present law to be determinative of fault or liability in any matter provided for in present law, including any suit for reimbursement pursuant to present law.