

- SUBJECT:** Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission funding
- COMMITTEE:** Environmental Regulation — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Harless, Isaac, Kacal, Lewis, Reynolds, E. Thompson, C. Turner
- 1 nay — Márquez
- 1 absent — Villalba
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 21 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter - Sierra Club; Edward Selig, Advocates for Responsible Disposal in Texas)
- Against — None
- On — Karen Hadden, SEED Coalition; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Charles Maguire, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Robert Wilson, Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission)
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission administers a compact between Texas and Vermont. Texas' Andrews County is the location of the compact's low-level radioactive waste disposal facility. The state serves as the administrative agent for the commission.
- DIGEST:** The bill would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to deposit in the low-level radioactive waste fund the portion of the fee calculated to support the activities of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission.
- SB 347 would require the comptroller on the first day of the each state fiscal year to transfer from the low-level was radioactive waste fund to the compact commission's account an amount equal to the amount appropriated for that state fiscal year.

On September 30 of each fiscal year, the comptroller would be required to transfer the compact commission's unexpended and unencumbered money from the previous fiscal year back to the low-level radioactive waste fund.

Money in the compact commission's account would be used only to support the compact commission.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission is a small agency and may have liquidity difficulties, depending on the payment of fees. SB 347 would ensure that the compact commission at the start of each fiscal year received its appropriated funds so that it could operate.

SB 347 would enable a simple accounting measure, designed to make administering the compact more efficient, and lessen the burden on a small staff.

The bill would provide fiscal control by requiring that unexpended and unencumbered funds be transferred back into the low-level radioactive waste fund on an annual basis.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

SB 347 should grant the compact commission enough funding and authority to audit waste being received at the disposal site in Andrews County.

NOTES:

The Legislative Budget Board's fiscal note states that the bill would have no effect on general revenue, but a cost to low-level waste account No. 88 of \$583,289 and a gain to radioactive waste disposal account No. 5151 of \$589,289.