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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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S.B. 83*
134th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Reported by Senate Agriculture & Natural Resources

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Williams and Rulli

Jeff Grim, Research Analyst

SUMMARY

- Appropriates \$150,000 to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a study regarding brownfield sites in Ohio.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Brownfield study

The bill appropriates \$150,000 from the General Revenue Fund for the 2021 fiscal year to be used by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) to conduct, in conjunction with Ohio public universities, a study to determine where brownfield sites are located in Ohio. A brownfield site is an abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial, commercial, or institutional property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by known or potential releases of hazardous substances or petroleum.¹

In conducting the study, OEPA must do all of the following:

1. Identify brownfield sites in Ohio and determine how many require cleanup;
2. Estimate the cost of performing the cleanup of the identified brownfield sites;
3. Identify funding sources to support the cleanup of identified brownfield sites;
4. Develop recommendations for changes to state and local laws and policies that would help facilitate the cleanup of the identified brownfield sites; and

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee appeared in the Senate Journal. Note that the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ Section 1 (D). See also R.C. 122.65(D), not in the bill.

5. Study and develop recommendations regarding any other issue relevant to the cleanup of brownfield sites in Ohio.²

OEPA must complete a report detailing its findings and recommendations by January 1, 2023. OEPA then must submit the report to the General Assembly and make it publicly available on the OEPA website.³

Currently, state and federal inventories of brownfield sites primarily rely on voluntary reporting through programs such as the Voluntary Action Program and the Clean Ohio Fund.⁴ The last round of grants made from the Clean Ohio Fund were made in 2013.⁵

HISTORY

| Action | Date |
|--|----------|
| Introduced | 02-23-21 |
| Reported, S. Agriculture & Natural Resources | --- |

S0083-RS-134/ar

² Section 1(B).

³ Section 1(C).

⁴ See R.C. Chapter 3746 and R.C. 122.65 to 122.659, not in the bill.

⁵ See “Brownfield Revitalization” at <https://development.ohio.gov/cleanohio/brownfieldrevitalization/> (last visited October 21, 2020).