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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 354
133rd General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Williams

Helena Volzer, Attorney

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 throughout the state of 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;

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, 2022. 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	08-27-20

S0354-I-133/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).