



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Bill Analysis

Amanda George

S.B. 50

132nd General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Skindell

BILL SUMMARY

- Prohibits the disposal of brine by deep well injection, by land application, and in association with enhanced recovery.
 - Accordingly, eliminates the per-barrel injection well fee.
 - Prohibits the conversion of a well to a use other than its original purpose (for example, converting from an oil and gas production well to an injection well).
 - Establishes criminal penalties for a violation of the bill's prohibitions.
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CONTENT AND OPERATION

Brine disposal

The bill prohibits anyone from disposing of brine from oil and gas operations in or on the land or in surface or ground water. However, the Chief may allow disposal for testing purposes and for purposes of implementing a new technology. Under current law, a person is only prohibited from disposing of brine in or on the land or in surface or ground water if the disposal causes or could reasonably be anticipated to cause damage or injury to public health or safety or the environment.¹

Whoever negligently violates this prohibition must be fined between \$100 and \$1,000 for a first offense and between \$200 and \$2,000 for each subsequent offense.²

¹ R.C. 1509.22.

² R.C. 1509.99(E).

As a result of the above changes, the bill repeals current law that does all of the following:

(1) Requires the issuance of a permit for the injection of brine and other waste substances, establishes procedures and requirements governing that issuance, and requires the Chief to adopt rules governing such injection;³

(2) Levies a per-barrel injection well fee, and provides for the calculation and collection of the amounts owed;⁴ and

(3) Authorizes a board of county commissioners, a board of township trustees, and the legislative authority of a municipal corporation to permit, by resolution, the surface application of brine to roads, and establishes requirements governing such resolutions and surface application.⁵

Additionally, the bill prohibits the disposal of brine in association with a method of enhanced recovery.⁶ Whoever negligently violates this prohibition must be fined between \$100 and \$1,000 for a first offense and between \$200 and \$2,000 for each subsequent offense.⁷ Current law, largely retained by the bill with the exception of brine, prohibits a person from conducting secondary or additional recovery operations, including any underground injection of fluids, without a permit to do so from the Chief.⁸

Conversion of wells

The bill prohibits a person from converting a well to a use other than its original purpose. For example, an oil and gas production well cannot be converted to an injection well.⁹ Whoever negligently violates this prohibition must be fined between \$100 and \$1,000 for a first offense and between \$200 and \$2,000 for each subsequent offense.¹⁰ Accordingly, it eliminates the prohibition in current law against converting a

³ R.C. 1509.22(D)(1), (3), and (5).

⁴ R.C. 1509.22(H).

⁵ R.C. 1509.226, repealed.

⁶ R.C. 1509.21(B).

⁷ R.C. 1509.99(E).

⁸ R.C. 1509.21(A).

⁹ R.C. 1509.051.

¹⁰ R.C. 1509.99(E).



well to any use other than its original purpose without a permit to do so issued by the Chief.¹¹

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	02-14-17

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¹¹ R.C. 1509.05.

