Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission

Summary of Recommendations - Senate

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Leigh Ing, Executive Director George Dziuk, LBB Analyst

| Method of Financing | 2018-19 Base | 2020-21 Recommended | Biennial Change (\$) | Biennial Change (%) |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| General Revenue Funds | \$0 | \$O | \$0 | 0.0% |
| GR Dedicated Funds | \$887,857 | \$1,154,328 | \$266,471 | 30.0% |
| Total GR-Related Funds | \$887,857 | \$1,154,328 | \$266,471 | 30.0% |
| Federal Funds | \$O | \$O | \$0 | 0.0% |
| Other | \$0 | \$0 | \$O | 0.0% |
| All Funds | \$887,857 | \$1,154,328 | \$266,471 | 30.0% |
| | | | | |
| | FY 2019 | FY 2021 | Biennial | Percent |

| | FY 2019 | FY 2021 | Biennial | Percent |
|------|----------|-------------|----------|---------|
| | Budgeted | Recommended | Change | Change |
| FTEs | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0% |

The Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission is a federal compact between Texas and Vermont. The Commission provides for and encourages the economical management and disposal of low-level radiaoctive waste in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Texas and Vermont and the environment. The Commission accepts low-level waste from Texas and Vermont, as well as out of compact low-level waste from across the country.

The bill pattern for this agency (2020-21 Recommended) represents an estimated 100% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2020-21 biennium.

\$700,000 \$577,164 \$577,164 \$577,164 \$600,000 \$500,000 \$400,000 \$300,000 \$343,560 \$310,693 \$200,000 \$100,000 \$0 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 Expended Estimated Budgeted Recommended Recommended - All Funds

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)

Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate

| | Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2020-21 Biennium compared to the 2018-19 Base Spending Level (in millions) | General Revenue | GR-Dedicated | Federal Funds | Other Funds | All Funds | Strategy in Appendix A |
|----|---|--------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Fu | unding Changes and Recommendations: | | | | | | |
| A) | Recommendations increase General Revenue-Dedicated Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Comission Account No. 5151 funding by \$266,471 for increased contracting costs and for the Commission to perform import agreement and export order audits, conduct annual fiscal auditing, and other operating costs. | \$0.0 | \$0.3 | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$0.3 | A.1.1 |
| Т | OTAL Funding Changes and Recommendations (in millions) | \$0.0 | \$0.3 | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$0.3 | As Listed |
| | Funding Increases | \$0.0 | \$0.3 | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$0.3 | As Listed |
| | Funding Decreases | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | \$0.0 | As Listed |

NOTE: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission (LLRWDCC) Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - Senate

 Commission Funding. Recommendations provide \$0.3 million out of General Revenue-Dedicated Low-Level Waste Disposal Compact Commission Account No. 5151 (Account No. 5151) to maintain 2018-19 appropriations. This continues appropriations each fiscal year at a level that has consistently been provided since 2012, which the Commission has never fully utilized. Funding primarily provides for increased contracting costs for salaries, database development, office space rental, and accounting services, but also includes other items such as membership fees, performing import agreement and export order audits, and paying for fiscal audits.

A transfer is made each fiscal year from the General Revenue-Dedicated Low-Level Radioactive Waste Account No. 88 (Account No. 88) into Account No. 5151 in an amount equivalent to the amount appropriated to the Commission. This occurs after any unexpended and unencumbered balances in GR-D Account No. 5151 from the previous fiscal year are transferred back into Account No. 88. Accordingly, any increase in appropriations to the Commission would result in an increased amount transferred from Account No. 88 into Account No. 5151.

- 2) Disposal Fees. Disposal fees assessed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and compact payments began being deposited to the credit of Account 88 in fiscal year 2004. This continued until fiscal year 2015 when the Eighty-third Legislature did not exempt the disposal fee from funds consolidation. This required the fee to be deposited to the credit of the General Revenue Fund. From fiscal years 2015 through 2017, the fee generated \$1.3 million that was deposited to the credit of the General Revenue Fund. The enactment of Senate Bill 1330, Eighty-fifth Legislature, Regular Session, 2017, reverted the deposit of the disposal fee in an amount sufficient to support the operations of the Commission back to Account No. 88. In addition, the enactment of House Bill 2662, Eighty-fifth Legislature, Regular Session, 2017 included:
 - a) Surcharge reductions for non-party compact waste disposal from 20 percent of the contracted rate to 10 percent during the 2018–19 biennium to incentivize out-of-compact disposers to use the disposal facility located near Andrews, Texas (Disposal Facility). At the beginning of fiscal year 2020, the rate will return to 20 percent; and
 - b) The quarterly deposit of 5 percent of the gross receipts from compact waste and any future federal facility waste to the credit of the General Revenue Fund instead of Account No. 88, beginning in fiscal year 2020.

Deposits to Account No. 88 from fiscal years 2004 through 2014 included \$25.0 million for Vermont's in-compact payment and \$10.0 million from out-of-compact disposal fees. Estimated deposits in fiscal year 2018 total \$883,471 of which \$409,000 is from Radioactive Material and Equipment Registration, \$208,000 is from Low Level Radioactive waste Disposal Fees, and \$266,471 is from transfers from Account No. 5151 unexpended balances. The disposal fee is anticipated to generate \$350,000 each year of the 2020–21 biennium.

- 3) Legislative Oversight. The enactment of House Bill 2662, Eighty-fifth Legislature, Regular Session, 2017:
 - a) Established a legislative oversight committee to consider and make recommendations regarding the operations and costs of the Disposal Facility, and the need for, and effects of, surcharges and fees. The committee's report was released in December 2018 and did not make any budget-related recommendations.
 - b) Requires the TCEQ to conduct a study at least every four years on the available volume and curie capacity of the Disposal Facility with the first report required on December 1, 2020.
- 4) Rider Request. The Commission has requested a new rider to specify that the Commission is not a state agency and is exempt from requirements of state law generally applicable to a state agency, except those duties and responsibilities expressly identified in Chapter 401 or 403 of the Health and Safety Code, the compact law, or agreed to by the Commission and the host or a party state through a memorandum of understanding or other documentation. Recommendations do not include the proposed rider (See also, Items Not Included in Recommendations Senate #1).

Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Items Not Included in Recommendations - Senate

| | | 2020- | 21 Biennial Total | | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|-------------------|------|--|--------------------------|--|
| | | GR & GR-D | All Funds | FTEs | Information Technology Involved? | Contracting Involved? | Estimated Continued Cost 2022-23 |
| Age | ncy Exceptional Items Not Included (in agency priority order) | | | | | | |
| 1) | New rider specifying that the Commission is not a state agency and is not subject to any requirements of state law generally applicable to a state agency except those duties defined in Health and Safety Code, Chapters 401 and 403, compact law, or those agreed to by the Commission (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - Senate #4) | \$0 | \$0 | 0.0 | No | No | \$0 |
| тс | OTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | | | \$0 |

Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Appendices - Senate

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* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

 ** Information is included in the presentation section of the packet

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Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate, by Strategy -- ALL FUNDS

| Strategy/Goal | 2018-19 Base | 2020-21 Recommended | Biennial Change | % Change | Comments |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|--|
| COMPACT ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS A.1.1 | \$887,857 | \$1,154,328 | \$266,471 | Waste | mendations increase General Revenue–Dedicated Low-Level Radioactive Disposal Compact Commission Account No. 5151 funding for Commission tions (See also, Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - Senate #1). |
| Total, Goal A, COMPACT ADMINISTATION & OPERATIONS | \$887,857 | \$1,154,328 | \$266,471 | 30.0% | |
| Grand Total, All Strategies | \$887,857 | \$1,154,328 | \$266,471 | 30.0% | |

Low-level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Summary of Ten Percent Biennial Base Reduction Options Recommendations - Senate

| | | | Biennial | Reduction Am | ounts | | | | |
|----------|---|--|-----------|---------------------|-------|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Priority | ltem | Description/Impact | GR & GR-D | All Funds | FTEs | Potential Revenue Loss | Reduction as % of Program GR/GR-D Total | Program GR/GR-D Total | Included in Introduced Bill |
| 1) | Reduction in Board Travel | Reduction in funding for board travel | \$20,000 | \$20,000 | 0.0 | \$0 | 1.7% | \$1,154,328 | No |
| 2) | Reduction in Board Travel and Elimination of Intern | Reduction in funding for board travel and for an intern | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | 0.0 | \$0 | 2.6% | \$1,154,328 | No |
| 3) | Reduction in Board Travel | Reduction in funding for board travel | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | 0.0 | \$0 | 2.6% | \$1,154,328 | No |
| 4) | Reduction in Board Travel and Director Contract | Reduction in funding for board travel and for the contract for the Director of Strategic and Policy Support | \$35,433 | \$35,433 | 0.0 | \$0 | 3.1% | \$1,154,328 | No |

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