



H.R. 1084/S. 587: Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act of 2011

SUMMARY OF THE BILLS

These companion bills amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal the exemption from restrictions on underground injection of fluids or propping agents granted to hydraulic fracturing operations related to oil, gas, or geothermal production activities under such Act.

Requires: (1) state underground injection programs to direct a person conducting hydraulic fracturing operations to disclose to the state (or the Administrator if the Administrator has primary enforcement responsibility in such state) the chemicals intended for use in underground injections prior to the commencement of such operations and the chemicals intended for use in underground injections prior to the commencement of such operations and the chemicals actually used after the end of such operations; and (2) a state or the Administrator to make such disclosure available to the public.

Requires a person conducting hydraulic fracturing operations, when a medical emergency exists and the proprietary chemical formula of a chemical used in such operations is necessary for medical treatment, to disclose such formula or the specific chemical identity of a trade secret chemical to the state, the Administrator, or the treating physician or nurse upon request, regardless of whether a written statement of need or a confidentiality agreement has been provided. Authorizes such person to require a written statement of need and a confidentiality agreement as soon thereafter as circumstances permit.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Support

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION/IMPACT TO COUNTY

These companion bills mandate disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing operations nationwide, including volumes used, and at least provides access to chemicals and mixtures otherwise protected as trade secrets should a medical emergency arise.

SUPPORTERS

No supporters listed.

OPPOSITION

No opposition listed.

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