

*Natural Resources Committee*

***HCR 4401***

***Brief Description:*** *Creating a joint select committee on the disposal of derelict vessels.*

***Sponsors:*** *Representatives Rockefeller, Woods, Hunt and Lantz.*

***Brief Summary of Bill***

- *A joint select committee on the disposal of derelict vessels is created to review current responsibilities of vessel owners, state agencies, and federal agencies for disposing of derelict vessels; and to develop recommendations regarding the disposal and funding for the disposal of these vessels.*
- *The joint select committee must report its recommendations by January 1, 2002.*

***Hearing Date:*** *2/9/01*

***Staff:*** *Bill Lynch (786-7092).*

***Background:***

*The number of derelict vessels that have been abandoned by their owners has increased in recent years. These vessels can obstruct navigation, and the potential release of hazardous materials from these vessels can cause environmental damage. These vessels are frequently disposed of by sinking them into deep water despite the risk of environmental damage. The costs associated with disposing of these vessels can be quite high.*

***Summary of Bill:***

*A joint select committee on the disposal of derelict vessels is created consisting of eight members. Four members are from the state Senate and are selected by the president of the Senate, with two members from each of the two major political parties. Four members are from the state House of Representatives selected by the co-speakers of the House, with two members from each of the two major political parties.*

*The joint select committee must review current responsibilities of vessel owners, the Department of Natural Resources, and federal agencies regarding derelict vessels. The joint select committee must develop recommendations regarding the disposal and funding for the disposal of these vessels by January 1, 2002. Staff support for the joint select committee is provided by Senate Committee Services and the House Office of Program Research.*

***Appropriation:*** *None.*

***Fiscal Note:*** *Not Requested.*

***Effective Date:*** *Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.*