

Petroleum Pipeline Study Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 14, 2017 10:00 a.m.
Gressette Building, Room 105

Members Present: Senators: Tom Young (CH) and Brad Hutto; Representatives: William “Bill” Hixon, Dennis Moss, and Russel Ott; C. Dukes Scott (ORS Executive Director); Michael Traynham (DHEC Assistant General Counsel); Public Members: Donald Gardner; W. McLeod Rhodes

Staff Present: Heather Anderson

Meeting:

Senator Young called the meeting to order. He recognized Mr. Don Siron, with the Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC), for an update on the Belton spill. Mr. Siron gave a power point presentation, and the members asked questions about the Belton spill as well as general questions concerning liquid spills, such as clean-up procedures and payment.

Following Mr. Siron’s presentation, the members began discussing the new Georgia law (H.B. 413) regarding petroleum pipelines. Mr. Scott stated there seemed to be three primary concerns regarding petroleum pipelines: (1) environmental issues; (2) response in the event of a spill; and (3) property rights. Members discussed matters related to petroleum pipelines, such as if a bond or insurance should be required, if a certificate of need should be required, and what would constitute a “need”. Mr. Gardner briefly discussed the Georgia bill, and Sen. Hutto requested that staff draft language that would make the Georgia statutory framework applicable to South Carolina law. The members discussed which South Carolina agencies may be appropriate to carry out certain functions in regards to petroleum pipelines. The members also discussed the need for additional information from other states regarding a possible definition or elements of “need” and bonding and/or insurance requirements.

Sen. Hutto made a motion that staff draft language to make the Georgia statutory framework applicable to South Carolina law, provided that: (1) the Public Service Commission serve as the primary agency while allowing other agencies to collaborate with the Commission; and (2) notice be provided to municipalities and counties in which a petroleum pipeline may be placed. Rep. Hixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Young, who had Sen. Massey’s proxy, also voted in favor of the motion on behalf of Sen. Massey.

Sen. Young asked if anyone in the audience wanted to speak; no one responded.

With no further business before the Study Committee, Sen. Hutto made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Traynham seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned, to reconvene at the call of the chair.