



House Bill 592

Why was House Bill 592 created?

Prior to House Bill 592 (HB 592), Ohio's solid waste regulatory program was based on a law adopted in 1967 and regulations adopted in 1976. While Ohio's existing law and regulations established a basic solid waste program, the overall scope of the program was limited.

In the mid- to late-80s, Ohio faced many problematic solid waste management issues, partly due to the lack of comprehensive regulations governing solid waste facilities and partly due to the lack of planning for how to manage Ohio's solid waste. These issues included:

- decreasing available landfill capacity and fewer operating landfill facilities;
- a lack of planning for new disposal facilities;
- increasing amounts of long-haul (out-of-state) waste being brought into Ohio;
- ground water contamination from poorly sited and designed landfill facilities;
- explosions due to methane gas migrating from landfill facilities;
- desire for increased local control over waste;
- a lack of consistent and effective enforcement of the solid waste regulations;
- limited public involvement in the landfill approval process; and,
- poor operating history of some Ohio landfills.

The seriousness of those issues greatly concerned Ohio's government, private, and public sectors. As a result, Ohio's General Assembly quickly wrote and passed HB 592. The bill made many needed changes to Ohio's solid waste program and created Ohio's current solid waste management planning and regulatory programs.

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Requirements Established by HB 592

The new solid waste law instituted by HB 592 created a comprehensive solid waste regulatory program and, for the first time, required Ohio to minimize its reliance on landfills for managing solid waste by increasing efforts to reduce, reuse, and recycle. To accomplish this, HB 592:

- required the director of Ohio EPA to adopt comprehensive regulations governing solid waste disposal facilities.
- required the director of Ohio EPA to adopt a state solid waste management plan.
- created the Solid Waste Management Advisory Council to assist in the preparation and approval of the state solid waste management plan.
- required the board of county commissioners of each of Ohio's 88 counties to establish a solid waste management district, either individually or with other counties.
- required each solid waste management district, working through a policy committee, to prepare, adopt and submit a solid waste management plan to Ohio EPA.
- required the owner or operator of any solid waste facility that began operating prior to Jan. 1, 1980 to upgrade the facility by incorporating best available technology.

House Bill 592 (HB 592), signed into law on June 24, 1988, dramatically revised Ohio's outdated solid waste regulatory program. The law also established a solid waste management planning program to be implemented at both the state and local government levels. The bill emphasized the need to reduce Ohio's reliance on landfills for the disposal of waste by increasing solid waste reuse, recycling and minimization efforts. This guidance is one in a series explaining the provisions of HB 592 that make up Ohio's solid waste management planning program.

Title

Since 1988, Ohio's General Assembly has made changes to the law originally established by HB 592. In some cases, these changes have altered the original provisions covering the solid waste management planning program. Still, the basic intent of the program remains unchanged.

For More Information

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