

PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 698

HOUSE BILL NO. 2216

By Representatives Gilmore, Mike Turner, Pruitt, Cooper

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2180

By Senators Harper, Marrero, Ketron, Ford

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 211, relative to solid waste disposal planning.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1969 required the state of Tennessee to permit and regulate solid waste landfills to protect human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Tennessee suffer from groundwater pollution from more than fifty (50) landfills and additional sites with acute chemical pollution; and

WHEREAS, businesses and local governments in Tennessee pay approximately two hundred and fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) to landfill solid waste in Class I and Class IV construction and demolition landfills, and Tennessee has a very high per capita landfilling rate, and previous solid waste reform in 1991 has not worked as anticipated; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly required the solid waste advisory committee to consider new solid waste regulations in Chapter 462 of the Public Acts of 2007, and the department of environment and conservation created a waste reduction task force to develop new solid waste regulations; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly believes new solid waste regulations must be based on the content of the solid waste stream including food waste, which is twelve percent (12%) of the waste stream, yard waste, which is thirteen percent (13%), paper and cardboard, which are thirty-six percent (36%), construction and demolition, which are twenty percent (20%), metals, which are nine percent (9%), and miscellaneous waste, which is ten percent (10%), and that solid waste can be used as a raw material in business and composting to create jobs; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly funded a joint solid waste study by Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State University to determine how to divert solid waste from landfills by finding a higher value use for solid waste as raw materials in business or compost; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly would like to thank the department, all members of the waste reduction task force, and the solid waste disposal board for their diligent efforts, which have contributed to reform of solid waste in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the general assembly intends to protect the people and natural resources of our state by managing the resources in solid waste to create jobs and businesses and to divert solid waste from landfills; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1.

(a) Tennessee State University and Middle Tennessee State University may research and develop methods to address how to use the materials in solid waste as raw materials to create jobs, business and compost.

(b) Such research by the universities may include how to divert food waste and yard waste, which make up twenty-five percent (25%) of the waste stream, from landfills to create useful compost and clean methane gas.

(c) Such methods and research may be made available to government agencies and others involved in solid waste reform. Such research and work shall be funded entirely from non-state sources.

(d) The universities will demonstrate the extent to which such reforms are cost effective. For example, that diversion of materials in solid waste as raw materials in business and compost creates jobs and profits.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: March 18, 2010


KENT WILLIAMS, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


RON RAMSEY
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 31st day of March 2010



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR