

HB 881 -- Department of Natural Resources

Sponsor: Guernsey

This bill changes the laws regarding the Department of Natural Resources. In its main provisions, the bill:

- (1) Eliminates the Land Survey Commission and transfers the duties of the commission to the department;
- (2) Eliminates the Unmarked Human Burial Consultation Committee and transfers the duties to any committee the department deems necessary or advisable to consult on matters concerning human burial;
- (3) Eliminates the Dam and Reservoir Safety Council and transfers the duties of the council to the department through the chief engineer;
- (4) Eliminates the Well Installation Board and transfers the duties of the board to the department through the state geologist;
- (5) Eliminates the Industrial Minerals Advisory Council and requires the department to consult with stakeholders to determine changes in the geologic resources fee;
- (6) Eliminates the State Interagency Council for Outdoor Recreation and transfers the duties of the council as well as any functions related to state parks or historic sites, recreational trails, outdoor recreation, or any federal grant program under Parks and Historic Preservation, Outdoor Recreation or any federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act to the department;
- (7) Eliminates the State Oil and Gas Council and transfers the duties of the council to the department;
- (8) Eliminates the Solid Waste Advisory Board and transfers the duties of the board to the department;
- (9) Includes Dam and Reservoir Safety, Well Installation, and Oil and Gas related appeals to the provisions governing the administrative appeals process and requires the Administrative Hearing Commission to render a final decision rather than a recommended decision in these cases;
- (10) Allows an applicant for multiple permits or certifications to directly petition the director for a unified permit schedule and to obtain the permits or certifications in a coordinated and streamlined process;

(11) Requires the director to develop and implement a process to coordinate the processing of multiple permits, certifications or permit modifications from a single applicant; and

(12) Eliminates the department's State Water Plan Interagency Task Force.