

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 60th Legislature

Bill No.:	HB3175
Version:	SUBPCS2
Request Number:	16271
Author:	Rep. Archer
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Impact:	2 FTE

Research Analysis

The second proposed subcommittee substitute for HB 3175 creates the Advanced Nuclear Energy Office which is responsible for promoting the development of advanced nuclear reactors and identifying financial and regulatory barriers to nuclear generation, among other things. The Office, in coordination with the Corporation Commission, must identify regulations for nuclear energy generation, and submit a report to the Governor and legislative leaders by December 1, 2027.

The Governor is required to appoint a director for the Office, who must have certain qualifications. The Director may employ a Nuclear Permitting Coordinator, with specific qualifications, to assist in the nuclear permitting and regulatory process. Further, the Nuclear Energy Office may administer grants for nuclear projects and the measure lists requirements for evaluating each grant application. The grants may only reimburse a recipient for expenses paid using their own funds. Before awarding a grant, the Office must enter into a written agreement with the recipient specifying benchmarks and repayment processes if benchmarks aren't met. 20% of the grants administered each year must go toward a project's initial development, as defined in the measure. 80% of the grants must go toward expenses associated with construction.

Lastly, the Office may also administer grants for the costs associated with completion of a nuclear reactor that is interconnected with the regional transmission operator. The grant amount will be based on a per megawatt basis.

Prepared By: Emily Byrne

Fiscal Analysis

The second proposed subcommittee substitute to HB 3175 creates the Oklahoma Nuclear Energy Office. The measure defines purposes of the Office and requires the Governor to appoint a Director of the Office. The Director may employ a Nuclear Permitting Coordinator to assist with the duties of the Office. The measure creates a new revolving fund for the Office and allows the Office to distribute grants and reimbursements related to nuclear energy development. The measure requires the Office to coordinate with the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to conduct a nuclear study and determine certain grant amounts.

The Corporation Commission anticipates a minimal fiscal impact of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00) to their Public Utility Division (PUD) in order to administer the requirements of the agency from this measure.

The overall fiscal impact of this measure would be the potential costs of two (2) additional full-time equivalents (FTE) that would serve under direction of the Governor. The anticipated actual cost of those FTE is unknown at this time; however, it is anticipated to have a non-absorbable cost to whichever entity the Director and the Permitting Coordinator are to serve under.

Prepared By: Jay St Clair, House Fiscal Staff

Other Considerations

None.