OLR Bill Analysis
sHB 7367

AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF THE PENFIELD REEF LIGHTHOUSE AS A COLUMBARIUM.

SUMMARY

This bill allows a lease the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) grants to preserve the Penfield Reef lighthouse, to permit the lighthouse to be used as a columbarium, solely as a repository for deceased persons’ cremated remains. The lease must be approved by the DEEP commissioner and contain terms that describe a plan for relocating the remains if the lease is terminated or a party refuses to renew it.

The bill specifies that its provisions cannot be construed to relieve the Penfield Reef lighthouse owner’s obligation to pay all costs associated with clean-up, remediation, or reconstruction if the lighthouse is damaged or destroyed.

Under the bill, a lease permitting the lighthouse’s use as a columbarium cannot be assigned to a third party without the DEEP commissioner’s approval.

The bill also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2019

BACKGROUND

Lease To Preserve the Penfield Reef Lighthouse

Existing law allows DEEP to lease or otherwise authorize control over the submerged lands associated with Penfield Reef Lighthouse with a right of occupancy to preserve it pursuant to provisions of state and federal law. It limits any lease to no more than 30 years, subject to renewal, and requires conditions for preservation and education, and in certain situations, reasonable public access.
COMMITTEE ACTION
Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute
Yea 21  Nay 0  (03/29/2019)