



TACIR

The Tennessee Advisory Commission
on Intergovernmental Relations



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Commission Members

FROM: Cliff Lippard *Cliff*
Executive Director

DATE: 11 December 2019

SUBJECT: Senate Joint Resolution 344 (Illegal Tire Dumps)—Draft Report for Review and Comment

The attached Commission report is submitted for your review and comment. It was prepared in response to Senate Joint Resolution 344, introduced by Senator Dickerson in March 2019, which directed the Commission to study the overall effects of illegal waste tire dumps in Tennessee. After the General Assembly adjourned without voting on the resolution, Senator Dickerson, with support from Senate Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Southerland, sent a letter formally requesting that TACIR take up the study, which the Commission voted to do at its May 2019 meeting.

The draft report finds that the improper disposal of garbage is a problem for communities everywhere—a public health risk, a sign of neglect, and a drain on public resources to clean up. Abandoned tires are particularly problematic, providing breeding grounds for insects that spread dangerous diseases and posing a significant fire hazard. Tires are bulky and heavy, making cleanup costly and burdensome, particularly when large numbers are discovered in remote locations. It concludes that, while Tennessee's existing waste tire program has been successful at diverting tires from landfills and recycling them and many of the worst illegal tire piles have been cleaned up, it doesn't specifically address illegal dumping issues. To reduce tire dumping, the report recommends taxing used tire sales the same as new tire sales, regulating the transport of waste tires, and giving county governments more flexibility to fund inspections and enforcement.