

Ohio lawmaker wants to require companies to disclose chemicals used for fracking

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An Ohio lawmaker wants to require oil companies drilling in state parks to disclose the chemicals they're using.

Rep. Sean Brennan, D-Parma, introduced a bill to require the owners of oil and gas companies that drill in state parks to tell the state the chemical components used in drilling. The Oil and Gas Resources Management chief would then publish the information on the organization's website.

Ohio authorized fracking in state parks in 2023. Fracking refers to hydraulic fracturing, the process of sending pressurized chemicals, water and sand into wells to extract oil and natural gas.

Opponents of fracking are concerned about the process's effects on the environment and on public health. Some researchers have found evidence that air pollution is associated with drilling sites, according to the National Institutes of Health.

Companies drilling in state parks are already required to disclose the type of products or fluids used in drilling and the volume used.

The bill is assigned to the House Natural Resources Committee. There has not yet been a hearing or any cosponsors signed on to the bill. To be passed, the bill would need to make it through the Republican-controlled House and Senate and signed by Gov. Mike DeWine, who signed the legislation authorizing fracking in state parks.

Where has Ohio allowed fracking?

The Oil and Gas Land Management Commission approved hundreds of acres for fracking in 2024, including two more parcels in Salt Fork State Park, northeast of Cambridge and about 62 acres in Leesville Wildlife Area in Carroll County.

Companies can now apply to lease the land for fracking.