

By: Hinojosa

H.B. No. 1521

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the reduction of methane gas flaring on land dedicated to the permanent university fund.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 66, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 66.455 to read as follows:

Sec. 66.455. METHANE FLARING REDUCTION POLICY. The board of regents of The University of Texas System shall adopt a formal policy goal to eliminate routine methane flaring on university lands by 2025.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 66, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 66.711 to read as follows:

Sec. 66.711. METHANE FLARING REDUCTION PLANS. (a) Under each lease issued, modified, or renewed under this subchapter relating to oil or gas, the lessee shall submit to the board a plan to end routine methane flaring in accordance with the policy goal adopted by the board of regents under Section 66.455. The plan must:

(1) include provisions that prohibit routine methane flaring;

(2) for all new and existing sources, require operators to adhere to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's new source performance standards for methane emissions;

and

1           (3) require the lessee to implement quarterly  
2 inspections and maintenance for the detection of malfunctioning and  
3 unlit flares using leak detection equipment, such as optical gas  
4 imaging cameras, and for the repair of those flares.

5           (b) The board shall review and approve or reject each plan  
6 submitted under Subsection (a) according to procedures adopted by  
7 the board. The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology shall  
8 assist the board and lessees in matters relating to the plans.

9           (c) In adopting procedures to implement this section, the  
10 board may apply to new facilities and existing facilities that have  
11 been modified after initial construction more stringent standards  
12 than the standards the board applies to other facilities.

13           SECTION 3. Not later than June 1, 2022, the Board for Lease  
14 of University Lands shall adopt procedures implementing Section  
15 66.711, Education Code, as added by this Act.

16           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.