

By: Rosenthal

H.B. No. 3183

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the cold weather preparedness of gas wells and pipeline facilities; authorizing a penalty.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 86, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 86.044 to read as follows:

Sec. 86.044. COLD WEATHER PREPAREDNESS. (a) The commission by rule shall require an operator of a gas well to:

(1) implement measures to prepare the well to operate during sustained periods of cold weather; and

(2) provide to the commission a biannual report of the efforts the operator has taken to implement the measures required under Subdivision (1).

(b) A failure to submit a report under Subsection (a)(2) is punishable by:

(1) for a first violation, a fine of \$5,000; and

(2) for a subsequent or continuing violation of more than four months:

(A) a fine of \$7,500; or

(B) a revocation of each permit authorizing the operation of a well for which a report has not been submitted.

(c) The commission shall submit an annual report to the legislature regarding the implementation of rules adopted under this section.

1 SECTION 2. Section [121.2015](#), Utilities Code, is amended by
2 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (d), (e), (f), and
3 (g) to read as follows:

4 (a) The railroad commission shall adopt rules regarding:

5 (1) public education and awareness relating to gas
6 pipeline facilities; ~~and~~

7 (2) community liaison for responding to an emergency
8 relating to a gas pipeline facility; and

9 (3) measures gas pipeline facility operators must
10 implement to prepare gas pipeline facilities to maintain service
11 quality and reliability during sustained periods of cold weather.

12 (d) Measures adopted under Subsection (a)(3) must require:

13 (1) the installation of condensate drains in
14 pipelines;

15 (2) that drains installed under Subdivision (1) be
16 installed in a manner that ensures the drains remain free of frost
17 at all times; and

18 (3) that valves, pumps, and other pressure-sensitive
19 equipment be protected from weather by insulation or heaters.

20 (e) A pipeline facility operator shall submit to the
21 railroad commission a biannual report of the efforts the operator
22 has taken to implement the measures required under Subsection
23 (a)(3).

24 (f) A failure to submit a report under Subsection (e) is
25 punishable by:

26 (1) for a first violation, a fine of \$5,000; and

27 (2) for a subsequent or continuing violation of more

1 than four months:

2 (A) a fine of \$7,500; or

3 (B) a revocation of the permit authorizing the
4 operation of the pipeline facility.

5 (g) The railroad commission shall submit an annual report to
6 the legislature regarding the implementation of rules adopted under
7 this section.

8 SECTION 3. (a) The first reports required under Sections
9 86.044(a)(2), Natural Resources Code, and 121.2015(e), Utilities
10 Code, as added by this Act, must be submitted to the Railroad
11 Commission of Texas not later than March 1, 2022.

12 (b) In addition to the reports required under Sections
13 86.044(c), Natural Resources Code, and 121.2015(g), Utilities
14 Code, as added by this Act, the Railroad Commission of Texas shall
15 submit to the legislature an interim report not later than March 1,
16 2022, regarding the implementation of changes in law made by this
17 Act.

18 (c) Not later than September 1 of each year beginning in
19 2022, the Railroad Commission of Texas shall submit to the
20 legislature the annual reports required by Sections 86.044(c),
21 Natural Resources Code, and 121.2015(g), Utilities Code, as added
22 by this Act.

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