

By: Zwiener

H.B. No. 57

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to climate change planning and reporting.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 5, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 396 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 396. CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING AND REPORTING

Sec. 396.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(2) "Office" means the office of the state climatologist.

Sec. 396.0002. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT REPORT. (a) Not later than June 1, 2024, and before the end of each successive four-year period after that date, the commission and the office shall prepare a report on the potential impact of climate change in this state.

(b) The report required by this section must include information regarding:

(1) scientific predictions regarding changes in temperature and precipitation patterns and amounts in this state that could result from climate change;

(2) the potential impact of climate change on:

(A) human health;

(B) the economy and the management of economic risk;

1 (C) infrastructure;

2 (D) surface water and groundwater;

3 (E) emergency preparedness;

4 (F) state and local government finances;

5 (G) forests, wildlife, and fisheries;

6 (H) agriculture; and

7 (I) recreation and tourism;

8 (3) significant uncertainties about climate change;

9 and

10 (4) economic opportunities created by the potential

11 need for:

12 (A) alternative sources of energy;

13 (B) climate-related technologies, services, and

14 strategies;

15 (C) carbon sequestration technologies; and

16 (D) technologies for the capture and utilization

17 of fugitive greenhouse gas emissions or other mitigation

18 strategies.

19 (c) In preparing the report required by this section, the
20 commission and the office may consult with other state or federal
21 agencies or academic institutions, as appropriate. The report
22 shall reflect any diversity of views within the scientific
23 community and among the entities consulted by the commission and
24 the office.

25 (d) The commission and the office shall make the report
26 required by this section available to the public in print and on the
27 commission's Internet website.

1 Sec. 396.0003. GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY. (a) The
2 commission and the office shall annually compile an inventory of
3 greenhouse gases emitted in this state by all sources.

4 (b) The inventory required by this section must establish:

5 (1) a baseline of greenhouse gas emissions to be used
6 to project future greenhouse gas emissions in the absence of
7 governmental intervention;

8 (2) greenhouse gas emission trends; and

9 (3) the relative contributions of major sectors,
10 including the transportation, electricity generation, industrial,
11 commercial, mineral and natural resources, alternative fuel,
12 agricultural, and domestic sectors.

13 Sec. 396.0004. CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN. (a) Not later
14 than December 1, 2024, and before the end of each successive
15 four-year period after that date, the commission and the office
16 shall create a climate change action plan.

17 (b) The climate change action plan required by this section
18 shall:

19 (1) include the information gathered as part of the
20 greenhouse gas inventory described by Section 396.0003;

21 (2) evaluate cost-effective strategies for reducing
22 or offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, including the costs,
23 benefits, and co-benefits of those strategies, and how those
24 strategies impact the capability of meeting future energy demands;

25 (3) identify areas of disagreement regarding
26 strategies covered by the plan; and

27 (4) recommend legislative changes necessary to

1 implement the plan.

2 (c) The commission and the office shall deliver the climate
3 action plan required by this section to the relevant standing
4 committees of the senate and the house of representatives and make
5 the plan available to the public in print and on the commission's
6 Internet website.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.