

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 2502

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an energy efficiency loan guarantee program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 388, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 388.013 to read as follows:

Sec. 388.013. ENERGY EFFICIENCY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

(a) The comptroller and the State Energy Conservation Office by rule shall establish and administer a program to issue or guarantee loans for energy audits, upgrades, or retrofits to increase the energy efficiency of commercial buildings and residences that are not newly constructed.

(b) Rules adopted under this section must establish eligibility requirements to receive a loan or loan guarantee under this section. The requirements must include emissions reduction cost-effectiveness criteria.

(c) The State Energy Conservation Office shall:

(1) use money from federal grants available through the United States Department of Energy to begin the program established under this section and leverage private capital or state resources, if money available under the grants is appropriated for that purpose; and

(2) establish policies for the use of federal grants that are compatible with requirements associated with the issuance

1 of those grants.

2 (d) The State Energy Conservation Office may use a portion
3 of the money or other resources described by Subsection (c) for
4 grants, technical assistance, or administrative expenses.

5 (e) The State Energy Conservation Office annually shall
6 submit to the commission and the laboratory a report that:

7 (1) evaluates the effectiveness of the program
8 established under this section; and

9 (2) quantifies energy savings and emissions
10 reductions as a result of this program for consideration in the
11 state implementation plan for emissions reduction credit.

12 SECTION 2. Section 389.002, Health and Safety Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 389.002. USE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION FOR FEDERAL
15 RECOGNITION OF EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS. The commission, using
16 information derived from the reports to the commission under
17 Sections 386.205, 388.003(e), ~~and~~ 388.006, and 388.013, shall
18 take all appropriate and necessary actions so that emissions
19 reductions achieved by means of activities under Chapters 386 and
20 388 are credited by the United States Environmental Protection
21 Agency to the appropriate emissions reduction objectives in the
22 state implementation plan.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.