

By: Guerra, Anchía, Darby,
Morales of Maverick

H.B. No. 3131

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3131:

By: Goldman

C.S.H.B. No. 3131

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas to
3 designate certain persons as the operator of an orphaned oil or gas
4 well.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 89.047(a), Natural Resources Code, is
7 amended by adding Subdivisions (1-a) and (1-b) to read as follows:

8 (1-a) "Energy conservation well" means a well used for
9 the retention of energy that may be used to provide dispatchable
10 generation of electricity for the power grid.

11 (1-b) "Geothermal energy and associated resources"
12 has the meaning assigned by Section 141.003.

13 SECTION 2. Section 89.047(f), Natural Resources Code, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (f) The commission shall designate the person as the
16 operator of the well if the person files with the commission:

17 (1) a factually supported claim based on a recognized
18 legal theory to a continuing possessory right in:

19 (A) the mineral estate accessed by the well,
20 [such] as established by [evidence of] a current oil and gas lease,
21 [or] a recorded deed conveying a fee interest in the mineral estate,
22 or any other documentation of an interest in the mineral estate;

23 (B) the geothermal energy and associated
24 resources estate accessed by the well, as established by a current

1 geothermal lease, a recorded deed conveying a fee interest in the
2 geothermal estate, or any other documentation of an interest in the
3 geothermal estate; or

4 (C) the geologic space accessed by the well for
5 the purpose of an energy conservation well, as established by a
6 recorded deed conveying a fee interest in the space accessed by the
7 well or any other documentation of an interest in that space;

8 (2) a completed certificate of compliance; and

9 (3) a nonrefundable fee in the amount of \$250.

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