

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 3131

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the designation of a person who has an interest in the
3 geothermal resources of an orphaned oil or gas well as the operator
4 of that well.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 89.047(f), Natural Resources Code, is
7 amended to read as follows:

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

10 (1) a factually supported claim based on a recognized
11 legal theory to a continuing possessory right in the mineral estate
12 or geothermal resources accessed by the well, such as evidence of a
13 current oil and gas lease or a recorded deed conveying a fee
14 interest in the mineral estate or geothermal resources;

15 (2) a completed certificate of compliance; and

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

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