

By: Sparks

S.B. No. 494

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a theft of petroleum products task
3 force.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:

6 (1) "Commission" means the Railroad Commission of
7 Texas.

8 (2) "Theft of petroleum product" means conduct
9 constituting an offense under Section 31.19, Penal Code.

10 (b) The commission shall appoint a task force to study and
11 make recommendations related to preventing the theft of petroleum
12 products in this state.

13 (c) The task force must include:

14 (1) at least one representative from the oil and gas
15 industry;

16 (2) at least one representative from an energy trade
17 association; and

18 (3) representatives from local, state, and federal law
19 enforcement agencies.

20 (d) The commission shall designate a member of the task
21 force as the presiding officer.

22 (e) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call
23 of the presiding officer. A task force meeting may be conducted
24 virtually through the Internet.

1 (f) The task force shall conduct an ongoing study of the
2 theft of petroleum products in this state. In conducting the study,
3 the task force shall:

4 (1) review laws and regulations addressing the theft
5 of petroleum products in other jurisdictions, including
6 international political and economic organizations;

7 (2) analyze:

8 (A) the impact of the theft of petroleum products
9 on the collection of sales tax;

10 (B) the long-term economic impacts of the theft
11 of petroleum products; and

12 (C) the advantages and disadvantages of taking
13 various actions to reduce the theft of petroleum products; and

14 (3) make recommendations regarding:

15 (A) theft of petroleum product outreach and
16 prevention programs, including coordination among stakeholders,
17 including local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and

18 (B) training for law enforcement officers and
19 prosecutors on effective strategies for combating the theft of
20 petroleum products.

21 (g) In conducting the study under Subsection (f) of this
22 section, the members of the task force may:

23 (1) consult with any organization, governmental
24 entity, or person the task force considers necessary; and

25 (2) collaborate and share information relating to an
26 active criminal investigation with one another regardless of
27 whether the information would otherwise be confidential and not

1 subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

2 (h) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,
3 the task force shall prepare and submit a report of the study
4 conducted under Subsection (f) of this section to the governor, the
5 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
6 the commission, and each standing committee of the legislature with
7 primary jurisdiction over oil and gas matters.

8 (i) The report submitted under Subsection (h) of this
9 section:

10 (1) must include legislative and other
11 recommendations to increase transparency, improve security,
12 enhance consumer protections, prevent the theft of petroleum
13 products, and address the long-term economic impact of the theft of
14 petroleum products; and

15 (2) may be submitted electronically.

16 (j) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
17 duration of the task force or to the designation of the task force's
18 presiding officer.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act, the Railroad Commission of Texas shall appoint the
21 theft of petroleum products task force as required by this Act.

22 SECTION 3. This Act expires December 31, 2030.

23 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.