

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 2940
By: McReynolds
Environmental Regulation
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Texas Environmental Education Partnership (TEEP) was established in 1999 by the Texas Legislature as a public/private nonprofit education partnership for development, implementation, and continued operation of environmental education projects, activities, and programs. The State of Texas does not provide any type of funding for TEEP; however, other states provide some funding for similar programs in their states.

The Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) administers Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP). SEP's are projects designed to prevent and reduce pollution in the environment as well as educate the public about environmental issues. Businesses who are under enforcement actions with TCEQ may decide to perform a SEP in conjunction with or in lieu of a fine. Businesses who choose a SEP must have their project approved by the TCEQ. The project could be within their community or with an entity authorized by TCEQ.

TEEP is an authorized entity to administer Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP). Monies received for SEP projects are currently unable to be used for any administration cost. H.B. 2940 allows the Texas Environmental Education Partnership Fund Board to use no more than 7 percent of any SEP monies, they may receive, for the purpose of carrying out the requirements the legislature delegated to this board years ago.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

House Bill 2940 allows for the board to use, for administrative cost, up to 7% of monies given to the board to carry out Supplemental Environmental Projects under Section 7.067, Water Code.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.