

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 416
By: Harris
Licensing & Administrative Procedures
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, Texas law requires power and unfired steam boilers and steam collection or liberation drums of process steam generators to receive internal inspections, for which a complete shutdown of the unit is usually required. Additionally, current Texas law does not require organizations that repair or alter boilers to be represented on the board of boiler rules.

Complete shutdowns of the above-mentioned boilers can negatively impact business and the environment.

As proposed, S.B. 416 increases the interval between internal inspections for power boilers and process steam generators and allows for emergency extensions. S.B. 416 also includes an individual representing organizations that repair or alter boilers on the board of boiler rules, replacing the required mechanical engineer or engineering professor.

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

SECTION 1. Amends Section 755.011(b), Health and Safety Code, to redesignate one member of the nine member-board of boiler rules as an individual representing organizations that repair or alter boilers rather than a mechanical engineer or a faculty member of a recognized college of engineering.

SECTION 2. Amends Sections 755.026(a) and (c), Health and Safety Code, as follows: (a) Authorizes an extended interval between inspections of power boilers not to exceed 60 months, rather than 48 months. Authorizes inspection intervals for unfired steam boilers, rather than other unfired steam boilers, or steam collection or liberation drums of process steam generators to be extended to the next scheduled downtime. Prohibits the extension from exceeding 84 months for unfired steam boilers, and 120 months for steam collection or liberation drums of process steam generators. Makes nonsubstantive changes. (c) Includes the authorized extensions under Subsection (a) in addition to the authorized emergency extension. Includes a prohibition against the commissioner of licensing and regulation and the inspection agency granting more than one emergency extension in an interval between internal inspections. Makes nonsubstantive changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.