

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 1633
By: Wentworth
Natural Resources
4/23/2003
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

C.S.S.B. 1633 provides for the use of water and salt conserving water softening devices in certain defined situations.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter B, Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code, by adding Sections 366.013 and 366.014, as follows:

Sec. 366.013. **INSTALLATION AND USE OF WATER SOFTENERS AND REVERSE OSMOSIS SYSTEMS.** (a) Authorizes an owner to install and use a household water softener that discharges effluent into an on-site sewage disposal system only if the installed water softener meets certain requirements.

(b) Requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to design and make the label required by Subsection (a)(3) available to owners and installers and to the Texas Water Quality Association for distribution to owners and installers. Requires the part of the label identifying the system as being equipped with a demand-initiated regeneration control device (DIR device) to be in a font size not smaller than 18 points. Authorizes TCEQ to charge a nominal fee for the labels and requires TCEQ to maintain compliance information on its website to allow owners and installers of household water softeners easy access to that information.

(c) Authorizes a water softener without a DIR device installed on an on-site sewage disposal system before September 1, 2003, to be continued in use until the system is required to be re-permitted after correction of a system failure or until a replacement water softener is installed. Provides that a DIR device is required for a water softener installed on and after September 1, 2003, on a new on-site sewage disposal system or a replacement water softener installed on or after that date on an existing on-site sewage disposal system.

(d) Requires a water softener installed on an on-site sewage disposal system to be sized, programmed, and calibrated for the most efficient operation possible, as determined by a certified water treatment specialist, for added protection to the environment and for the proper operation of the system.

(e) Authorizes an owner to install and use a point-of-use reverse osmosis system that discharges effluent into an on-site sewage disposal system.

(f) Authorizes an owner to install and use a whole-house reverse osmosis system that discharges effluent into an on-site sewage disposal system if the calculated volume of effluent does not cause hydraulic overloading or has been adequately

addressed in the design of the on-site sewage disposal system.

Sec. 366.014. EXEMPTION. Requires the provisions of Section 366.013 to apply only to conventional on-site sewage disposal systems and prohibits those provisions from applying to aerobic on-site sewage disposal systems.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2003.