

AN ACT

relating to the duties of and the renaming of the small business stationary source assistance program as the small business compliance assistance program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 382.0365, Health and Safety Code, is transferred to Subchapter D, Chapter 5, Water Code, redesignated as Section 5.135, Water Code, and amended to read as follows:

Sec. 5.135 [~~382.0365~~]. SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE [~~STATIONARY SOURCE~~] ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish a small business [~~stationary source technical and environmental~~] compliance assistance program.

(b) The program shall include:

(1) mechanisms to develop, collect, and coordinate information about compliance methods and technologies for small businesses [~~business stationary sources~~] and to encourage cooperation between those small businesses [~~sources~~] and other persons to achieve compliance with applicable air quality, water quality, and solid waste laws;

(2) mechanisms to assist small businesses [~~business stationary sources~~] with pollution prevention and the prevention and detection of accidental releases, including information about alternative technologies, process changes, products, and methods of operation to reduce air pollution, water pollution, and improper

1 disposal of solid waste;

2 (3) an ombudsman to help small businesses [~~business~~  
3 ~~stationary sources~~] meet the requirements of the federal Clean Air  
4 Act Amendments of 1990 (Pub.L. No. 101-549), as amended, the  
5 Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et  
6 seq.), as amended, and the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act (42  
7 U.S.C. Section 6901 et seq.), as amended;

8 (4) a compliance assistance program to help small  
9 businesses [~~business stationary sources~~] identify the requirements  
10 for and obtain required permits in a timely and efficient manner;

11 (5) notification procedures to assure that small  
12 businesses [~~business stationary sources~~] receive notice of their  
13 rights and obligations under the federal Clean Air Act Amendments  
14 of 1990 (Pub.L. No. 101-549), as amended, the Federal Water  
15 Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et seq.), as amended,  
16 and the federal Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. Section 6901 et  
17 seq.), as amended, in time to identify applicable requirements and  
18 evaluate and implement appropriate compliance methods;

19 (6) auditing services or referrals for small business  
20 stationary source operations to determine compliance with the  
21 federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (Pub.L. No. 101-549), as  
22 amended; and

23 (7) procedures for considering a request by a small  
24 business [~~stationary source~~] to modify work practices,  
25 technological compliance methods, or an implementation schedule  
26 requirement that precedes a compliance date, taking into account  
27 the technological and financial capability of that source.

1 (c) The program shall include a small business compliance  
2 assistance advisory panel that consists of the following seven  
3 members:

4 (1) two members who are not owners or representatives  
5 of owners of small business stationary sources, selected by the  
6 governor to represent the public;

7 (2) two members who are owners or who represent owners  
8 of small business stationary sources, selected by the speaker of  
9 the house of representatives;

10 (3) two members who are owners or who represent owners  
11 of small business stationary sources, selected by the lieutenant  
12 governor; and

13 (4) one member selected by the chairman of the  
14 commission to represent the commission.

15 (d) The small business compliance assistance advisory panel  
16 shall:

17 (1) give advisory opinions on the effectiveness of the  
18 program, the difficulties of implementing the program, and the  
19 incidence and severity of enforcement;

20 (2) report periodically to the administrator  
21 regarding the program's compliance with requirements of the  
22 Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Pub.L. No. 96-511), as amended,  
23 the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. Section 601 et seq.), as  
24 amended, and the Equal Access to Justice Act (Pub.L. No. 96-481), as  
25 amended;

26 (3) review information the program provides to small  
27 businesses [~~business stationary sources~~] to assure the information

1 is understandable to nonexperts; and

2 (4) distribute opinions, reports, and information  
3 developed by the panel.

4 (e) The commission shall enter into a memorandum of  
5 understanding with the Texas Department of Economic Development  
6 [~~Commerce~~] to coordinate assistance to any small business in  
7 applying for permits from the commission.

8 (f) The commission may adopt rules reasonably necessary to  
9 implement this section. Rules relating to air pollution must  
10 comply [~~in compliance~~] with Section 507 of the federal Clean Air Act  
11 (42 U.S.C. Section 7661f), as added by Section 501 of the federal  
12 Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (Pub.L. No. 101-549), as amended,  
13 and regulations adopted under that Act.

14 (g) [~~The commission may also assist under this program small~~  
15 ~~businesses that employ at least 100 but not more than 250~~  
16 ~~individuals.~~

17 [~~(h)~~] In this section:

18 (1) "Program" means the small business [~~stationary~~  
19 ~~source technical and environmental~~] compliance assistance program.

20 (2) "Small business" means:

21 (A) a small business stationary source; or

22 (B) a business that employs at least 100 but not  
23 more than 250 individuals.

24 (3) "Small business stationary source" has the meaning  
25 assigned by Section 507(c) of the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C.  
26 Section 7661f), as added by Section 501 of the federal Clean Air Act  
27 Amendments of 1990 (Pub.L. No. 101-549), as amended.

1           SECTION 2. Section 481.0068(b), Government Code, is amended  
2 to read as follows:

3           (b) The Office of Small Business Assistance shall:

4           (1) examine the role of small and historically  
5 underutilized businesses in the state's economy and the  
6 contribution of small and historically underutilized businesses in  
7 generating economic activity, expanding employment opportunities,  
8 promoting exports, stimulating innovation and entrepreneurship,  
9 and bringing new and untested products and services to the  
10 marketplace;

11           (2) serve as the principal focal point in the state for  
12 small and historically underutilized businesses by:

13           (A) providing to the legislature information on  
14 the effects of proposed policies or actions;

15           (B) assisting state agencies in determining the  
16 impact proposed rules have on small businesses as required by  
17 Section 2006.002; and

18           (C) assisting the agencies in reducing the  
19 adverse effect that rules have on small businesses, if appropriate;

20           (3) evaluate the effectiveness of efforts of state  
21 agencies and other entities to assist small and historically  
22 underutilized businesses and make appropriate recommendations to  
23 the legislature and state agencies to assist the development and  
24 strengthening of small and historically underutilized businesses;

25           (4) identify regulations that inhibit small and  
26 historically underutilized business development and to the extent  
27 possible identify conflicting state policy goals;

1           (5) determine the availability of financial and other  
2 resources to small and historically underutilized businesses and  
3 recommend methods for:

4                   (A) increasing the availability of equity  
5 capital and other forms of financial assistance to small and  
6 historically underutilized businesses;

7                   (B) generating markets for the goods and services  
8 of small and historically underutilized businesses;

9                   (C) providing more effective education,  
10 training, and management and technical assistance to small and  
11 historically underutilized businesses; and

12                   (D) providing assistance to small and  
13 historically underutilized businesses in complying with federal,  
14 state, and local laws;

15           (6) identify the reasons for small and historically  
16 underutilized business successes and failures, ascertain the  
17 related factors that are particularly important in this state, and  
18 recommend actions for increasing the success rate of small and  
19 historically underutilized businesses;

20           (7) serve as a focal point for receiving comments and  
21 suggestions concerning state government policies and activities  
22 that affect small and historically underutilized businesses;

23           (8) develop and suggest proposals for changes in state  
24 policies and activities that adversely affect small and  
25 historically underutilized businesses;

26           (9) provide to state agencies information on the  
27 effects of proposed policies or actions that affect small and

1 historically underutilized businesses;

2 (10) provide information and assistance relating to  
3 establishing, operating, or expanding small and historically  
4 underutilized businesses;

5 (11) assist small and historically underutilized  
6 businesses by:

7 (A) identifying:

8 (i) sources of financial assistance for  
9 those businesses; and

10 (ii) financial barriers to those  
11 businesses;

12 (B) working with relevant organizations to  
13 identify financing programs that aid small businesses in overcoming  
14 financial barriers;

15 (C) matching those businesses with sources of  
16 financial assistance and credit enhancement; and

17 (D) assisting those businesses with the  
18 preparation of applications for government loans, loan guarantees,  
19 and credit enhancement programs;

20 (12) sponsor meetings, to the extent practicable in  
21 cooperation with public and private educational institutions, to  
22 provide training and disseminate information beneficial to small  
23 and historically underutilized businesses;

24 (13) assist small and historically underutilized  
25 businesses in their dealings with federal, state, and local  
26 governmental agencies and provide information regarding  
27 governmental requirements affecting small and historically

1 underutilized businesses;

2 (14) perform research, studies, and analyses of  
3 matters affecting the interests of small and historically  
4 underutilized businesses;

5 (15) use available resources within the state, such as  
6 small business development centers, educational institutions, and  
7 nonprofit associations, to coordinate the provision of management  
8 and technical assistance to small and historically underutilized  
9 businesses in a systematic manner;

10 (16) publish newsletters, brochures, and other  
11 documents containing information useful to small and historically  
12 underutilized businesses;

13 (17) identify successful small and historically  
14 underutilized business assistance programs provided by other  
15 states and determine the feasibility of adapting those programs for  
16 implementation in this state;

17 (18) establish an outreach program to make the  
18 existence of the office known to small and historically  
19 underutilized businesses and potential clients throughout the  
20 state;

21 (19) enlist the cooperation and assistance of public  
22 and private agencies, businesses, and other organizations in  
23 disseminating information about the programs and services provided  
24 by the state that benefit small businesses and how small businesses  
25 can participate in or make use of those programs and services;

26 (20) defer to the small business compliance  
27 [~~stationary source~~] assistance program as defined by Section 5.135,



1 Water Code [~~382.0365, Health and Safety Code~~], on advocacy and  
2 technical assistance related to environmental programs that  
3 regulate small businesses;

4           (21) develop a "one-stop" approach for all small  
5 business needs, including competitive activity with state agencies  
6 and political subdivisions; and

7           (22) perform any other functions necessary to carry  
8 out the purposes of this section.

9           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 44 was passed by the House on March 18, 2003, by a non-record vote.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 44 was passed by the Senate on May 6, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor