

By: Merritt

H.B. No. 183

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a requirement that the Bureau of Economic Geology of The
3 University of Texas at Austin conduct a study of the East Texas Oil
4 Field.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 85, Natural Resources Code, is amended
7 by adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER L. STUDY OF EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD

9 Sec. 85.401. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

10 (1) "Advisory committee" means the East Texas Oil
11 Field Advisory Committee.

12 (2) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Economic Geology of
13 The University of Texas at Austin.

14 Sec. 85.402. STUDY OF FIELD. The bureau shall conduct a
15 study of the East Texas Oil Field for the purpose of making
16 recommendations regarding measures that should be taken to maximize
17 the ultimate recovery of oil and gas from the field.

18 Sec. 85.403. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The advisory
19 committee is composed of:

20 (1) a member of the commission, appointed by the
21 commission;

22 (2) a member of the board of a school district,
23 appointed by the commission;

24 (3) a representative of the oil industry, appointed by

1 the commission;

2 (4) a member of the senate, appointed by the
3 lieutenant governor; and

4 (5) a member of the house of representatives,
5 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

6 (b) A member of the advisory committee serves at the will of
7 the person who appointed the member.

8 (c) The member of the advisory committee who is the member
9 of the commission serves as the presiding officer of the advisory
10 committee.

11 (d) Members of the advisory committee are not entitled to
12 compensation but are entitled to reimbursement for actual and
13 necessary expenses incurred in performing their official duties as
14 advisory committee members.

15 (e) Necessary costs for the operation of the advisory
16 committee shall be paid from money appropriated to the commission.

17 (f) The advisory committee shall meet at the call of the
18 presiding officer.

19 (g) The advisory committee shall keep a public record of its
20 decisions at the office of the commission.

21 (h) The advisory committee shall advise the bureau with
22 regard to the study required by Section 85.402.

23 Sec. 85.404. REPORT. The bureau shall make an interim
24 report on or before January 1, 2005, and a final report on or before
25 September 1, 2005, to the governor, lieutenant governor, and
26 speaker of the house of representatives containing recommendations
27 regarding measures that should be taken to maximize the ultimate

1 recovery of oil and gas from the East Texas Oil Field.

2 Sec. 85.405. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires and the
3 advisory committee is abolished September 1, 2005.

4 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable on or after the effective
5 date of this Act:

6 (1) the Railroad Commission of Texas shall appoint:

7 (A) the member of the East Texas Oil Field
8 Advisory Committee who is a member of the commission;

9 (B) the member of the advisory committee who is a
10 member of the board of a school district; and

11 (C) the member of the advisory committee who is a
12 representative of the oil industry;

13 (2) the lieutenant governor shall appoint the member
14 of the advisory committee who is a member of the senate; and

15 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives shall
16 appoint the member of the advisory committee who is a member of the
17 house of representatives.

18 SECTION 3. (a) The Bureau of Economic Geology of The
19 University of Texas at Austin is required to conduct the study and
20 make the reports required by this Act only if the legislature
21 appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the
22 legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
23 purpose, the bureau may, but is not required to, implement this Act
24 using other appropriations available for the purpose.

25 (b) The persons required to appoint the members of the East
26 Texas Oil Field Advisory Committee created under this Act shall
27 appoint the members only if the Bureau of Economic Geology of The

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1 University of Texas at Austin is required or chooses to implement
2 this Act as provided by Subsection (a) of this section.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.