

By: Armbrister

S.B. No. 1261

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to notice of proposed construction and the marking and location of certain wireless communication facilities.

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

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the LeClair-Jennings Act.

SECTION 2. Chapter 35, Business & Commerce Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITY

Sec. 35.111. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "wireless communication facility" means an equipment enclosure, antenna, antenna support structure, and any associated facility used for the reception or transmittal of a radio frequency, microwave, or other signal for a commercial communications purpose.

Sec. 35.112. NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION. (a) A person proposing to construct a wireless communication facility that is taller than 100 feet shall, on or before the 30th day before the date the construction begins, mail a letter to each of the following:

(1) any airport located within three miles of the proposed facility location; and

(2) the Texas Agricultural Aviation Association.

(b) The letter must state:

(1) the legal description of the proposed site of

1 construction, including a graphic depiction showing the location,
2 height, longitude, latitude, pad size, roadway access, and proposed
3 use of the wireless communication facility and location of any guy
4 wires;

5 (2) at a minimum, the name, phone number, electronic
6 mail address, if any, and mailing address of the person proposing
7 construction of the wireless communication facility; and

8 (3) a phone number that is operational 24 hours a day,
9 seven days a week, for emergency purposes.

10 Sec. 35.113. EXCEPTIONS. This subchapter does not apply to
11 any structure whose main purpose is to provide electric service, a
12 wireless communication facility used by an entity only for internal
13 communications, a wireless communication facility constructed by a
14 municipality, a wireless communication facility used for emergency
15 communications, a radio or television reception antenna, a
16 satellite or microwave parabolic antenna not used by a wireless
17 communication service provider, a receive-only antenna, an antenna
18 owned and operated by a federally licensed amateur radio station
19 operator, a cable television company facility, a radio or
20 television broadcasting facility, a colocation antenna, or a
21 wireless communication facility installed for colocation purposes.

22 Sec. 35.114. EFFECT ON CERTAIN ORDINANCES. This subchapter
23 does not preempt a local ordinance regulating a wireless
24 communication facility.

25 SECTION 3. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Transportation Code,
26 is amended by adding Section 21.070 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 21.070. MARKING OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION FACILITY.

1 (a) In this section:

2 (1) "Cultivated field" means any open space or pasture
3 larger than five acres in which a plant or tree nursery is located
4 or an agricultural crop, including cotton, corn, grain, grapes,
5 beets, peanuts, and rice, but not including grass grown for hay, is
6 grown on a continuing basis.

7 (2) "Wireless communication facility" has the meaning
8 assigned by Section 35.111, Business & Commerce Code.

9 (b) Absence of plants, seedlings, or a crop on a temporary
10 basis due to crop rotation or other farm management techniques does
11 not remove an open area from the definition of "cultivated field."

12 (c) This section applies only to an antenna structure that
13 is used to provide commercial wireless communications services and
14 that is located in a cultivated field or within 100 feet of a
15 cultivated field.

16 (d) A person who proposes to construct a wireless
17 communication facility that is at least 100 feet but not more than
18 200 feet in height above ground level shall mark the highest guy
19 wires on the facility, if any, with two warning spheres each.

20 SECTION 4. (a) The changes in law made by this Act apply
21 only to a wireless communication facility constructed on or after
22 the effective date of this Act.

23 (b) This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote
24 of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided
25 by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does
26 not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes
27 effect September 1, 2003.