

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 1633

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the installation and use of a water softener or reverse osmosis system by an owner of an on-site sewage disposal system.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 366.013 and 366.0135 to read as follows:

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

(1) conserves water by design;

(2) regenerates using a demand-initiated regeneration control device, commonly known as a DIR device; and

(3) is clearly labeled as being equipped with a DIR device, with the label affixed to the outside of the system so that it may be inspected and easily read.

(b) The commission shall 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. The part of the label identifying the system as being equipped with a DIR device must be in a font size not smaller than 18 points. The commission may charge a nominal fee for the labels and shall maintain compliance information on their websites to allow

1 owners and installers of household water softeners easy access to
2 that information.

3 (c) A water softener without a DIR device installed on an
4 on-site sewage disposal system before September 1, 2003, may be
5 continued in use until the system is required to be repermited
6 after correction of a system failure or until a replacement water
7 softener is installed. A DIR device is required for a water
8 softener installed on and after September 1, 2003, on a new on-site
9 sewage disposal system or a replacement water softener installed on
10 or after that date on an existing on-site sewage disposal system.

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

16 (e) An owner may install and use a point-of-use reverse
17 osmosis system that discharges effluent into an on-site sewage
18 disposal system.

19 (f) An owner may install and use a whole-house reverse
20 osmosis system that discharges effluent into an on-site sewage
21 disposal system if the calculated volume of effluent:

- 22 (1) does not cause hydraulic overloading; or
23 (2) has been adequately addressed in the design of the
24 on-site sewage disposal system.

25 Sec. 366.0135. EXEMPTION. The provisions of Section
26 366.013 shall apply only to conventional on-site sewage disposal
27 systems and may not apply to aerobic on-site sewage disposal

1 systems.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.