

1-1 By: Wentworth S.B. No. 1633  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 14, 2003; March 20, 2003, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources;  
1-4 April 25, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee  
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 25, 2003,  
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1633 By: Lindsay

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the installation and use of a water softener or reverse  
1-11 osmosis system by an owner of an on-site sewage disposal system.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 366, Health and Safety  
1-14 Code, is amended by adding Sections 366.013 and 366.0135 to read as  
1-15 follows:

1-16 Sec. 366.013. INSTALLATION AND USE OF WATER SOFTENERS AND  
1-17 REVERSE OSMOSIS SYSTEMS. (a) An owner may install and use a  
1-18 household water softener that discharges effluent into an on-site  
1-19 sewage disposal system only if the installed water softener:

1-20 (1) conserves water by design;

1-21 (2) regenerates using a demand-initiated regeneration  
1-22 control device, commonly known as a DIR device; and

1-23 (3) is clearly labeled as being equipped with a DIR  
1-24 device, with the label affixed to the outside of the system so that  
1-25 it may be inspected and easily read.

1-26 (b) The commission shall design and make the label required  
1-27 by Subsection (a)(3) available to owners and installers and to the  
1-28 Texas Water Quality Association for distribution to owners and  
1-29 installers. The part of the label identifying the system as being  
1-30 equipped with a DIR device must be in a font size not smaller than 18  
1-31 points. The commission may charge a nominal fee for the labels and  
1-32 shall maintain compliance information on their websites to allow  
1-33 owners and installers of household water softeners easy access to  
1-34 that information.

1-35 (c) A water softener without a DIR device installed on an  
1-36 on-site sewage disposal system before September 1, 2003, may be  
1-37 continued in use until the system is required to be re-permitted  
1-38 after correction of a system failure or until a replacement water  
1-39 softener is installed. A DIR device is required for a water  
1-40 softener installed on and after September 1, 2003, on a new on-site  
1-41 sewage disposal system or a replacement water softener installed on  
1-42 or after that date on an existing on-site sewage disposal system.

1-43 (d) A water softener installed on an on-site sewage disposal  
1-44 system must be sized, programmed, and calibrated for the most  
1-45 efficient operation possible, as determined by a certified water  
1-46 treatment specialist, for added protection to the environment and  
1-47 for the proper operation of the system.

1-48 (e) An owner may install and use a point-of-use reverse  
1-49 osmosis system that discharges effluent into an on-site sewage  
1-50 disposal system.

1-51 (f) An owner may install and use a whole-house reverse  
1-52 osmosis system that discharges effluent into an on-site sewage  
1-53 disposal system if the calculated volume of effluent:

1-54 (1) does not cause hydraulic overloading; or

1-55 (2) has been adequately addressed in the design of the  
1-56 on-site sewage disposal system.

1-57 Sec. 366.0135. EXEMPTION. The provisions of Section  
1-58 366.013 shall apply only to conventional on-site sewage disposal  
1-59 systems and may not apply to aerobic on-site sewage disposal  
1-60 systems.

1-61 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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