

By: Gattis

H.B. No. 753

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to notice to surface owners of oil and gas exploration and production operations.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 91, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Subchapter P to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER P. NOTICE OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION OPERATIONS

Sec. 91.701. NOTICE REQUIRED. (a) An oil and gas developer shall give each surface owner written notice of the oil and gas exploration and production operations contemplated by the oil and gas developer not less than 30 days before the date the operations begin.

(b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), if the oil and gas developer plans to begin oil and gas exploration and production operations less than 30 days before the date the oil and gas lease terminates, the notice may be given at any time before the oil and gas exploration and production operations begin.

Sec. 91.702. ADDRESS FOR NOTICE. The notice must be given to each surface owner at the surface owner's address as shown by the records of the county clerk or county tax assessor-collector at the time the notice is given.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to oil and gas exploration and production operations that begin on

1 or after October 1, 2005. Oil and gas exploration and production  
2 operations that begin before October 1, 2005, are governed by the  
3 law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act,  
4 and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.