

By: Puente

H.B. No. 2429

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to water and energy saving performance standards for commercial clothes-washing machines.

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

SECTION 1. Section 372.001, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding a new Subdivision (1) and renumbering existing Subdivision (1) as Subdivision (1-a) and amending that subdivision to read as follows:

(1) "Commercial clothes-washing machine" means a clothes washer that:

(A) is designed to be used in a commercial setting, including multifamily housing, an apartment, or a coin-operated laundry; and

(B) has a capacity of:

(i) not more than 3.5 cubic feet if it is a horizontal axis machine; or

(ii) not more than 4 cubic feet if it is a vertical axis machine.

(1-a) "Commission" means the Texas [Natural Resource Conservation] Commission on Environmental Quality.

SECTION 2. Chapter 372, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 372.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 372.005. COMMERCIAL CLOTHES-WASHING MACHINE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS. (a) A person may not sell, offer for sale,

1 distribute, lease, or import into this state a commercial
2 clothes-washing machine for use in this state unless the machine:

3 (1) meets the water and energy saving performance
4 standards provided by Subsection (b); and

5 (2) is listed by the commission under Subsection (c).

6 (b) For a commercial clothes-washing machine, the water
7 consumption factor may not exceed 9.5 gallons per cubic foot per
8 cycle and the modified energy factor must be at least 1.26 cubic
9 feet per kilowatt-hours per cycle, as determined using the test
10 procedures established by the United States Department of Energy as
11 specified in 10 C.F.R. Part 430, Subpart B, Appendix J1, as that
12 appendix existed on October 31, 2003.

13 (c) The commission shall make and maintain a current list of
14 commercial clothes-washing machines that are certified to the
15 commission by the manufacturer or importer to meet the water and
16 energy saving performance standards provided by Subsection (b). To
17 have a commercial clothes-washing machine included on the list, the
18 manufacturer or importer must supply to the commission, in the form
19 prescribed by the commission, the identification and the
20 performance specifications of the commercial clothes-washing
21 machine. The commission may test a listed commercial
22 clothes-washing machine to determine the accuracy of the
23 manufacturer's or importer's certification and shall remove from
24 the list a machine the commission determines to be inaccurately
25 certified.

26 (d) The commission may include on the list described by
27 Subsection (c) commercial clothes-washing machines that are

1 certified by the Consortium for Energy Efficiency, Inc., to meet
2 the water and energy saving performance standards provided by
3 Subsection (b).

4 (e) The commission may assess against a manufacturer or an
5 importer a reasonable fee for an inspection of a commercial
6 clothes-washing machine to determine the accuracy of the
7 manufacturer's or importer's certification in an amount determined
8 by the commission to cover the expenses incurred in the
9 administration of this chapter. A fee received by the commission
10 under this subsection shall be deposited to the credit of the water
11 resource management account in the general revenue fund. Fees
12 deposited under this section may be appropriated only for the
13 administration of this chapter.

14 (f) The commission shall, to the extent appropriate and
15 practical, employ the standards established by the United States
16 Department of Energy in determining or evaluating performance
17 standards or testing procedures under this chapter.

18 SECTION 3. Section 372.005, Health and Safety Code, as
19 added by this Act, does not apply to a commercial clothes-washing
20 machine that as of January 1, 2007:

21 (1) is in the inventory of a commercial
22 clothes-washing machine retailer, distributor, lessor, or
23 importer; or

24 (2) has been ordered by a commercial clothes-washing
25 machine retailer, distributor, lessor, or importer for delivery on
26 or before January 31, 2007.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect January 1, 2007.