

By: Merritt

H.B. No. 3219

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a requirement that the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin conduct a study of the East Texas Oil Field, a natural resource of the Texas-Louisiana border region.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 85, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L. STUDY OF EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD

Sec. 85.401. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Advisory committee" means the East Texas Oil Field Advisory Committee.

(2) "Bureau" means the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin.

Sec. 85.402. STUDY OF FIELD. The bureau shall conduct a study of the East Texas Oil Field for the purpose of making comprehensive recommendations regarding measures that should be taken to maximize the ultimate recovery of oil and gas from the field.

Sec. 85.403. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The advisory committee is composed of the following persons appointed by the bureau:

(1) a member of the board of trustees of the Kilgore Independent School District;

(2) a member of the board of trustees of the White Oak

1 Independent School District;

2 (3) a member of the board of trustees of the Pine Tree
3 Independent School District;

4 (4) a member of the board of trustees of Kilgore Junior
5 College or an employee of Kilgore Junior College; and

6 (5) three representatives of the oil industry.

7 (b) The advisory committee shall advise the bureau with
8 regard to the study required by Section 85.402.

9 Sec. 85.404. REPORT. The bureau shall make a report on or
10 before January 1, 2007, to the governor, lieutenant governor, and
11 speaker of the house of representatives containing comprehensive
12 recommendations regarding measures that should be taken to maximize
13 the ultimate recovery of oil and gas from the East Texas Oil Field.

14 Sec. 85.405. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires and the
15 advisory committee is abolished September 1, 2007.

16 SECTION 2. (a) The Bureau of Economic Geology of The
17 University of Texas at Austin is required to implement this Act only
18 if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that
19 purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money
20 specifically for that purpose, the bureau may, but is not required
21 to, implement this Act using other appropriations available for the
22 purpose.

23 (b) If the operators of oil or gas wells in the East Texas
24 Oil Field implement the recommendations contained in the report
25 required by Section 85.404, Natural Resources Code, as added by
26 this Act and that implementation results in an increase in the
27 amount of oil and gas produced from the field, the legislature shall

1 provide for recovery of the cost of implementing this Act from the
2 owners or operators of the wells in the manner the legislature
3 determines to be most appropriate.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.