

By: Fraser

S.B. No. 533

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to this state's goal for renewable energy.

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

SECTION 1. Section 36.053, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) If the commission issues a certificate of convenience and necessity or, acting under Section 39.203(e), orders an electric utility or a transmission and distribution utility to construct or enlarge transmission or transmission-related facilities to facilitate meeting the goal for generating capacity from renewable energy technologies under Section 39.904(a), the commission shall find that the facilities are used and useful to the utility in providing service for purposes of this section and are prudent and includable in the rate base, regardless of the extent of the utility's actual use of the facilities.

SECTION 2. Subsection (e), Section 39.203, Utilities Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) The commission may require an electric utility or a transmission and distribution utility to construct or enlarge facilities to ensure safe and reliable service for the state's electric markets and to reduce transmission constraints within ERCOT in a cost-effective manner where the constraints are such that they are not being resolved through Chapter 37 or the ERCOT transmission planning process. The commission shall require an

1 electric utility or a transmission and distribution utility to
2 construct or enlarge transmission or transmission-related
3 facilities for the purpose of meeting the goal for generating
4 capacity from renewable energy technologies under Section
5 39.904(a). In any proceeding brought under Chapter 37, an electric
6 utility or transmission and distribution utility ordered to
7 construct or enlarge facilities under this subchapter need not
8 prove that the construction ordered is necessary for the service,
9 accommodation, convenience, or safety of the public and need not
10 address the factors listed in Sections 37.056(c)(1)-(3) and (4)(E).
11 Notwithstanding any other law, including Section 37.057, in any
12 proceeding brought under Chapter 37 by an electric utility or a
13 transmission and distribution utility related to an application for
14 a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct or
15 enlarge transmission or transmission-related facilities under this
16 subsection, the commission shall issue a final order before the
17 181st day after the date the application is filed with the
18 commission. If the commission does not issue a final order before
19 that date, the application is approved.

20 SECTION 3. Section 39.904, Utilities Code, is amended by
21 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (g) through (n) to
22 read as follows:

23 (a) It is the intent of the legislature that by January 1,
24 2015 [~~2009~~], an additional 5,000 [~~2,000~~] megawatts of generating
25 capacity from renewable energy technologies will have been
26 installed in this state. The cumulative installed renewable
27 capacity in this state shall total 5,880 [~~1,280~~] megawatts by

1 January 1, 2015, and the commission shall establish a target of
2 10,000 megawatts of installed renewable capacity by January 1,
3 2025. The cumulative installed renewable capacity in this state
4 shall total 2,280 megawatts by January 1, 2007, 3,272 megawatts by
5 January 1, 2009, 4,264 megawatts by January 1, 2011, 5,256
6 megawatts by January 1, 2013, and 5,880 megawatts by January 1,
7 2015. Of the renewable energy technology generating capacity
8 installed to meet the goal of this subsection after September 1,
9 2005, the commission shall establish a target of having at least 500
10 megawatts of capacity from a renewable energy technology other than
11 a source using wind energy [2003, 1,730 megawatts by January 1,
12 2005, 2,280 megawatts by January 1, 2007, and 2,880 megawatts by
13 January 1, 2009].

14 (g) The commission, after consultation with each
15 appropriate independent organization, electric reliability
16 council, or regional transmission organization:

17 (1) shall designate competitive renewable energy
18 zones throughout this state in areas in which renewable energy
19 resources and suitable land areas are sufficient to develop
20 generating capacity from renewable energy technologies;

21 (2) shall develop a plan to construct transmission
22 capacity necessary to deliver to electric customers, in a manner
23 that is most beneficial and cost-effective to the customers, the
24 electric output from renewable energy technologies in the
25 competitive renewable energy zones; and

26 (3) shall consider the level of financial commitment
27 by generators for each competitive renewable energy zone in

determining whether to designate an area as a competitive renewable energy zone and whether to grant a certificate of convenience and necessity.

(h) In considering an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for a transmission project intended to serve a competitive renewable energy zone, the commission is not required to consider the factors provided by Sections 37.056(c)(1) and (2).

(i) Transmission service to a competitive renewable energy zone must be provided in a manner consistent with Subchapter A, Chapter 35.

(j) The commission, after consultation with each appropriate independent organization, electric reliability council, or regional transmission organization, shall file a report with the legislature not later than December 31 of each even-numbered year. The report must include:

(1) an evaluation of the commission's implementation of competitive renewable energy zones;

(2) the estimated cost of transmission service improvements needed for each competitive renewable energy zone; and

(3) an evaluation of the effects that additional renewable generation has on system reliability and on the cost of alternatives to mitigate the effects.

(k) The commission and the independent organization certified for ERCOT shall study the need for increased transmission and generation capacity throughout this state and report to the legislature the results of the study and any recommendations for

1 legislation. The report must be filed with the legislature not
2 later than December 31 of each even-numbered year and may be filed
3 as a part of the report required by Subsection (j).

4 (l) The commission may adopt rules requiring renewable
5 power facilities to have reactive power control capabilities or any
6 other feasible technology designed to reduce the facilities'
7 effects on system reliability.

8 (m) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
9 commission shall ensure that all renewable capacity installed in
10 this state and all renewable energy credits awarded, produced,
11 procured, or sold in this state are counted toward the goal in
12 Subsection (a).

13 (n) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
14 commission shall have the authority to cap the price of renewable
15 energy credits and may suspend the goal contained in Subsection (a)
16 if such suspension is necessary to protect the reliability and
17 operation of the grid.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.