

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

S.B. 1666  
By: Averitt  
Energy Resources  
Committee Report (Unamended)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Railroad Commission of Texas administers an abandoned mine land reclamation program that uses federal funds to reclaim eligible abandoned mine lands. Currently, the Surface Coal Mining and Reclamation Act provides that reclaimed property of a person who owned the surface before May 2, 1977, is exempt from a reclamation lien.

This bill eliminates the requirement of ownership before May 2, 1977, to be eligible for a lien exemption to make the state statute consistent with current federal law.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

This bill amends the Natural Resources Code, by deleting existing language prohibiting a lien from being filed under this section against the property of a person who owned the surface before May 2, 1977. This bill makes application of this Act retroactive to December 20, 2006.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

Upon passage, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2007.