

By: Burnam

H.B. No. 722

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a global warming task force.

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

SECTION 1. (a) The state climatologist shall establish a global warming task force composed of business leaders, academic scholars, scientists, economists, and environmentalists to develop a balanced and authoritative assessment of the global warming challenges and opportunities facing Texas. The global warming task force shall focus on the economic opportunities available for Texas businesses in preventing global warming and protecting public health from the effects of global warming.

(b) The global warming task force shall:

(1) assess and update the findings presented by the Task Force on Climate Change in Texas in its 1995 report titled "The Impact of Global Warming on Texas";

(2) assess the feasibility of implementing a carbon emissions credit system in this state; and

(3) determine opportunities in this state for increasing:

(A) efficiency in the use of energy;

(B) the use of renewable sources of energy; and

(C) the capture and sequestration of carbon emissions from the use of fossil fuels.

(c) Not later than October 1, 2008, the global warming task

1 force shall present to the state climatologist findings relating to
2 the assessments conducted under Subsection (b). Not later than
3 November 1, 2008, the state climatologist shall distribute the task
4 force's findings to the governor and each member of the
5 legislature.

6 SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2007, the state
7 climatologist shall establish a global warming task force as
8 required by this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.