

By: Swinford

H.B. No. 1673

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the inclusion of certain methane in the fuel ethanol and biodiesel incentive program of the Department of Agriculture.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 16, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 16. FUEL ETHANOL, RENEWABLE METHANE, AND BIODIESEL PRODUCTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

SECTION 2. Section 16.001, Agriculture Code, is amended by amending Subdivisions (1) and (6) and adding Subdivision (4-a) to read as follows:

(1) "Account" means the fuel ethanol, renewable methane, and biodiesel production account.

(4-a) "Renewable Methane" means methane gas derived from animal waste, landfill gas, or an agricultural byproduct, including creamery or fruit waste or corn silage.

(6) "Producer" means a person who operates a fuel ethanol, renewable methane, or biodiesel plant in this state.

SECTION 3. Sections 16.002(a) and (b), Agriculture Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) To be eligible for a grant for fuel ethanol, renewable methane, or biodiesel produced in a plant, a producer must apply to the office for the registration of the plant. A producer may apply for the registration of more than one plant.

1 (b) An application for the registration of a plant must show
2 to the satisfaction of the office that:

3 (1) the plant is capable of producing fuel ethanol,
4 renewable methane, or biodiesel;

5 (2) the producer has made a substantial investment of
6 resources in this state in connection with the plant; and

7 (3) the plant constitutes a permanent fixture in this
8 state.

9 SECTION 4. Section 16.003(a), Agriculture Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 (a) On or before the fifth day of each month, a producer
12 shall report to the office on:

13 (1) the number of gallons of fuel ethanol or biodiesel
14 or MMBtus of renewable methane produced at each registered plant
15 operated by the producer during the preceding month;

16 (2) the number of gallons of fuel ethanol or biodiesel
17 imported into this state by the producer during the preceding
18 month;

19 (3) the number of gallons of fuel ethanol or biodiesel
20 sold or blended with motor fuels by the producer during the
21 preceding month; and

22 (4) the total value of agricultural products consumed
23 in each registered plant operated by the producer during the
24 preceding month.

25 SECTION 5. The heading to Section 16.004, Agriculture Code,
26 is amended to read as follows:

27 Sec. 16.004. FUEL ETHANOL, RENEWABLE METHANE, AND BIODIESEL

1 PRODUCTION ACCOUNT.

2 SECTION 6. Section 16.004(a), Agriculture Code, is amended
3 to read as follows:

4 (a) The fuel ethanol, renewable methane, and biodiesel
5 production account is an account in the general revenue fund that
6 may be appropriated only to the office for the purposes of this
7 chapter, including the making of grants under this chapter.

8 SECTION 7. The heading to Section 16.005, Agriculture Code,
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 Sec. 16.005. FEE ON FUEL ETHANOL, RENEWABLE METHANE, AND
11 BIODIESEL PRODUCTION.

12 SECTION 8. Sections 16.005(a), (b), and (d), Agriculture
13 Code, are amended to read as follows:

14 (a) The office shall impose a fee on each producer in an
15 amount equal to 3.2 cents for each gallon of fuel ethanol or
16 biodiesel or each MMBtu of renewable methane produced in each
17 registered plant operated by the producer.

18 (b) For each fiscal year, the office may not impose fees on a
19 producer for more than 18 million gallons of fuel ethanol or
20 biodiesel or MMBtus of renewable methane produced at any one
21 registered plant.

22 (d) The office may not impose fees on a producer for fuel
23 ethanol, renewable methane, or biodiesel produced at a registered
24 plant after the 10th anniversary of the date production from the
25 plant begins.

26 SECTION 9. The heading to Section 16.006, Agriculture Code,
27 is amended to read as follows:

1 Sec. 16.006. FUEL ETHANOL, RENEWABLE METHANE, AND BIODIESEL
2 GRANTS.

3 SECTION 10. Sections 16.006(a), (b), (c), and (e),
4 Agriculture Code, are amended to read as follows:

5 (a) The office, after consultation with the department,
6 shall make grants to producers as an incentive for the development
7 of the fuel ethanol, renewable methane, and biodiesel industry and
8 agricultural production in this state.

9 (b) A producer is entitled to receive from the account 20
10 cents for each gallon of fuel ethanol or biodiesel or each MMBtu of
11 renewable methane produced in each registered plant operated by the
12 producer until the 10th anniversary of the date production from the
13 plant begins.

14 (c) For each fiscal year a producer may not receive grants
15 for more than 18 million gallons of fuel ethanol or biodiesel or
16 MMBtus of renewable methane produced at any one registered plant.

17 (e) If the office determines that the amount of money
18 credited to the account is not sufficient to distribute the full
19 amount of grant funds to eligible producers as provided by this
20 chapter for a fiscal year, the office shall proportionately reduce
21 the amount of each grant for each gallon of fuel ethanol or
22 biodiesel or each MMBtu of renewable methane produced as necessary
23 to continue the incentive program during the remainder of the
24 fiscal year.

25 SECTION 11. This Act takes effect immediately if it
26 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
27 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.

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1 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
2 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.