

By: McCall, Branch

H.B. No. 4031

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the agricultural biomass and landfill diversion incentive program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22.002, Agriculture Code, is amended by amending Subdivisions (1) and (5) and adding Subdivisions (1-a) and (5-a) to read as follows:

(1) "Co-firing biomass" means a solid fuel that:

(A) contains qualified agricultural biomass;

(B) is produced by a renewable biomass aggregator and bio-coal fuel producer; and

(C) is used to supplement coal combustion for the generation of electricity.

(1-a) "Diverter":

(A) means:

(i) a person or facility that qualifies for an exemption under Section 361.111 or 363.006, Health and Safety Code;

(ii) a handler of nonhazardous industrial waste that is registered or permitted under Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code; ~~[or]~~

(iii) a facility that separates recyclable materials from a municipal solid waste stream and that is registered or permitted under Chapter 363, Health and Safety Code,

1 as a municipal solid waste management facility; or  
2 (iv) a renewable biomass aggregator and  
3 bio-coal fuel producer that operates an integrated harvesting,  
4 transportation, and solid biofuel conversion facility for  
5 qualified agricultural biomass; and

6 (B) does not include a facility that uses biomass  
7 to generate electric energy.

8 (5) "Qualified agricultural biomass" means:

9 (A) agricultural residues that are of a type that  
10 historically have been disposed of in a landfill, relocated from  
11 their point of origin and stored in a manner not intended to enhance  
12 or restore the soil, burned in open fields in the area from which  
13 they are derived, or burned in fields and orchards that continue to  
14 be used for the production of agricultural goods, and includes:

15 (i) field or seed crop residues, including  
16 straw from rice or wheat, cotton gin trash, corn stover, grain  
17 sorghum (milo) harvest residues, sugarcane bagasse, and  
18 switchgrass;

19 (ii) fruit or nut crop residues, including  
20 orchard or vineyard prunings and removals;

21 (iii) forest wood waste or urban wood  
22 waste, including state designated forest management cuttings and  
23 brush management cuttings from private lands; and

24 (iv) agricultural livestock waste  
25 nutrients; and

26 (B) a crop grown and used specifically for its  
27 energy generation value, including a crop consisting of a

1 fast-growing tree species.

2 (5-a) "Renewable biomass aggregator and bio-coal fuel  
3 producer" means an operator of an integrated harvesting,  
4 transportation, and fuel conversion facility that aggregates  
5 qualified agricultural or forest biomass and produces renewable  
6 fuel suitable for replacing coal or co-firing with coal.

7 SECTION 2. Section 22.003, Agriculture Code, is amended by  
8 amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and (f) and adding  
9 Subsection (h) to read as follows:

10 (a) The department shall develop and administer an  
11 agricultural biomass and landfill diversion incentive program to  
12 make grants to farmers, loggers, ~~and~~ diverters, and renewable  
13 biomass aggregators and bio-coal fuel producers who provide  
14 qualified agricultural biomass, forest wood waste, urban wood  
15 waste, co-firing biomass, or storm-generated biomass debris to  
16 facilities that use biomass to generate electric energy in order to  
17 provide an incentive for the construction of facilities for that  
18 purpose and to:

19 (1) promote economic development;

20 (2) encourage the use of renewable sources in the  
21 generation of electric energy;

22 (3) reduce air pollution caused by burning  
23 agricultural biomass, forest wood waste, urban wood waste,  
24 co-firing biomass, or storm-generated biomass debris in open  
25 fields; and

26 (4) divert waste from landfills.

27 (b) Subject to Section 22.005, a farmer, logger, ~~or~~

1 diverter, or renewable biomass aggregator and bio-coal fuel  
2 producer is entitled to receive a grant in the amount of \$20 for  
3 each bone-dry ton of qualified agricultural biomass, forest wood  
4 waste, urban wood waste, co-firing biomass, or storm-generated  
5 biomass debris provided by the farmer, logger, ~~or~~ diverter, or  
6 renewable biomass aggregator and bio-coal fuel producer in a form  
7 suitable for generating electric energy to a facility that:

8 (1) is located in this state;

9 (2) was placed in service after August 31, 2009;

10 (3) generates electric energy sold to a third party by  
11 using qualified agricultural biomass, forest wood waste, urban wood  
12 waste, co-firing biomass, or storm-generated biomass debris;

13 (4) uses the best available emissions control  
14 technology, considering the technical practicability and economic  
15 reasonableness of reducing or eliminating the air contaminant  
16 emissions resulting from the facility;

17 (5) maintains its emissions control equipment in good  
18 working order; and

19 (6) is in compliance with its operating permit issued  
20 by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under Chapter 382,  
21 Health and Safety Code.

22 (c) The commissioner by rule may authorize a grant to be  
23 made for providing each bone-dry ton of a type or source of  
24 qualified agricultural biomass, forest wood waste, urban wood  
25 waste, co-firing biomass, or storm-generated biomass debris in an  
26 amount that is greater than the amount provided by Subsection (b) if  
27 the commissioner determines that a grant in a greater amount is

1 necessary to provide an adequate incentive to use that type or  
2 source of qualified agricultural biomass, forest wood waste, urban  
3 wood waste, co-firing biomass, or storm-generated biomass debris to  
4 generate electric energy.

5 (d) The Public Utility Commission of Texas and the Texas  
6 Commission on Environmental Quality shall assist the department as  
7 necessary to enable the department to determine whether a facility  
8 meets the requirements of Subsection (b) for purposes of the  
9 eligibility of farmers, loggers, [~~and~~] diverters, and renewable  
10 biomass aggregators and bio-coal fuel producers for grants under  
11 this chapter.

12 (e) To receive a grant under this chapter, a farmer, logger,  
13 [~~or~~] diverter, or renewable biomass aggregator and bio-coal fuel  
14 producer must deliver qualified agricultural biomass, forest wood  
15 waste, urban wood waste, co-firing biomass, or storm-generated  
16 biomass debris to a facility described by Subsection (b). The  
17 operator of each facility described by that subsection shall:

18 (1) verify and document the amount of qualified  
19 agricultural biomass, forest wood waste, urban wood waste,  
20 co-firing biomass, or storm-generated biomass debris delivered to  
21 the facility for the generation of electric energy; and

22 (2) make a grant on behalf of the department in the  
23 appropriate amount to each farmer, logger, [~~or~~] diverter, or  
24 renewable biomass aggregator and bio-coal fuel producer who  
25 delivers qualified agricultural biomass, forest wood waste, urban  
26 wood waste, co-firing biomass, or storm-generated biomass debris to  
27 the facility.

1           (f) The department quarterly shall reimburse each operator  
2 of a facility described by Subsection (b) for grants under this  
3 chapter made by the operator during the preceding quarter to  
4 eligible farmers, loggers, ~~and~~ diverters, and renewable biomass  
5 aggregators and bio-coal fuel producers. To receive reimbursement  
6 for one or more grants, an operator of a facility described by that  
7 subsection must file an application with the department that  
8 verifies the amount of the grants made by the operator during the  
9 preceding quarter for which the operator seeks reimbursement.

10           (h) Notwithstanding Subsection (b)(2), a facility placed in  
11 service before August 31, 2009, is eligible for reimbursement under  
12 this chapter if another facility placed in operation after August  
13 31, 2009, is located 25 miles or less from the existing facility.

14           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.