

By: Watson

S.B. No. 184

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to "no regrets" greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategies.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 2305, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2305.201 to read as follows:

Sec. 2305.201. STRATEGIES TO REDUCE EMISSIONS OF GREENHOUSE GASES. (a) In this section, "greenhouse gas" includes carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2010, the comptroller shall prepare and deliver to each member of the legislature a report including a list of strategies for reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in this state that:

(1) shall result in net savings for consumers or businesses in this state;

(2) can be achieved without financial cost to consumers or businesses in this state; or

(3) help businesses in the state maintain global competitiveness.

(c) In preparing the list of emission reduction strategies, the comptroller shall consider the strategies for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases that have been implemented in other states or nations.

1       (d) In determining under Subsection (b) whether an emission  
2 reduction strategy may result in a financial cost to consumers or  
3 businesses in this state, the comptroller shall consider the total  
4 net costs that may occur over the life of the strategy.

5       (e) A report prepared under Subsection (b) shall include the  
6 following information for each identified strategy:

7           (1) initial, short-term capital costs that may result  
8 from the implementation of the strategy delineated by the cost to  
9 business, and the costs to consumers; and

10          (2) lifetime costs and savings that may result from  
11 the implementation of the strategy delineated by the costs and  
12 savings to business and the costs and savings to consumers.

13       (f) The comptroller shall appoint one or more advisory  
14 committees to assist the comptroller in identifying and evaluating  
15 greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies. At least one  
16 representative from the following agencies shall serve on the  
17 advisory committee or committees:

18           (1) the Railroad Commission of Texas;

19           (2) the General Land Office;

20           (3) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

21           (4) the Department of Agriculture; and

22           (5) a Texas institution of higher education.

23       (g) The comptroller may enter into an interagency agreement  
24 with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or other state  
25 agency for technical advice or assistance as necessary to complete  
26 the requirements of this section.

27       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.