

By: Fraser

S.B. No. 1821

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and a pilot project with regard to, and the implementation of policies to promote, the adoption of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 39, Utilities Code, is amended by adding Section 39.917 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.917. EVALUATION OF POLICIES REGARDING PLUG-IN HYBRID ELECTRIC VEHICLES; PILOT PROJECT. (a) In this section, "plug-in hybrid electric vehicle" means a vehicle that:

(1) draws motive power from a battery with a capacity of at least four kilowatt-hours;

(2) can be recharged from an external source of electricity for motive power; and

(3) is a light-duty motor vehicle as defined by Section 386.151, Health and Safety Code.

(b) The commission shall study the potential for wide-scale adoption of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and shall submit a report to the 82nd Legislature regarding the commission's findings.

The report shall include:

(1) a summary and evaluation of studies by other organizations relating to the sufficiency of the transmission and distribution grid and existing generation capacity to charge vehicles;

1           (2) a summary and evaluation of studies quantifying  
2 the air quality benefits of the adoption of plug-in hybrid electric  
3 vehicles, particularly in areas that are, or are likely to be,  
4 nonattainment areas;

5           (3) an evaluation of the sufficiency of existing and  
6 planned metering infrastructure, settlement policies, and retail  
7 pricing offers to provide adequate incentives for customers to  
8 charge vehicles during off-peak hours;

9           (4) an evaluation by transmission and distribution  
10 utilities of the potential impact of increased loading on  
11 distribution transformers due to increased use of plug-in hybrid  
12 electric vehicles; and

13           (5) recommendations to the legislature relating to  
14 legislation that the commission finds necessary to support the  
15 adoption of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles while maintaining a  
16 reliable transmission and distribution grid.

17           (c) Based on the results of the study required by this  
18 section, the commission may adopt rules as necessary to ensure that  
19 adequate electric infrastructure and policies are in place to  
20 support the adoption of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

21           (d) The commission shall consult with the Electric  
22 Reliability Council of Texas, transmission and distribution  
23 utilities, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, as  
24 appropriate, to conduct the study.

25           (e) The commission shall develop a pilot project, in  
26 consultation with local electric utilities or private contractors,  
27 for the establishment and operation of charging stations for

1 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in state-owned parking lots and  
2 garages, including lots and garages in the Capitol Complex, as  
3 defined by Section 411.061, Government Code.

4 (f) The pilot project must also include:

5 (1) demonstrations on the use of charging stations for  
6 plug-in hybrid electric vehicles in the Capitol Complex;

7 (2) the solicitation of demonstrations of plug-in  
8 hybrid electric vehicles, including pickup trucks, delivery  
9 vehicles, and buses, for use in the state vehicle fleet; and

10 (3) facilitation of the use of ride-sharing or  
11 car-pooling programs that use plug-in hybrid electric vehicles and  
12 are sponsored or promoted by local governments.

13 (g) The commission may solicit and accept grants, gifts, and  
14 donations from any public or private source for the purposes of this  
15 section.

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