

By: Fraser

S.B. No. 1821

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study 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. (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 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.