

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 25, 2009

TO: Honorable Byron Cook, Chair, House Committee on Environmental Regulation

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2669 by Crossover (Relating to the injection and geologic storage of anthropogenic carbon dioxide.), **As Introduced**

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB2669, As Introduced: a negative impact of (\$578,544) through the biennium ending August 31, 2011.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2010	(\$296,777)
2011	(\$281,767)
2012	(\$18,862)
2013	(\$53,591)
2014	(\$53,591)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from <i>General Revenue Fund</i> 1	Probable Savings/(Cost) from <i>New Anthropogenic Carbon Dioxide Trust Fund</i>	Probable Revenue Gain/ (Loss) from <i>New Anthropogenic Carbon Dioxide Trust Fund</i> 1
2010	(\$296,777)	\$0	\$0
2011	(\$281,767)	(\$91,448)	\$0
2012	(\$190,319)	(\$171,457)	\$171,457
2013	(\$190,319)	(\$136,728)	\$136,728
2014	(\$190,319)	(\$136,728)	\$136,728

Fiscal Year	Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2009
2010	3.0
2011	3.0
2012	4.0
2013	4.0
2014	4.0

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would define “anthropogenic carbon dioxide,” “anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO2) injection well,” “enhanced recovery operations,” “geologic storage, and “geologic storage facility.” The bill would provide the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) jurisdiction over injection wells. The bill would require that a person applying for a permit to drill and operate a CO2 injection well or operate a geologic storage facility must submit a letter from the Railroad Commission (RRC) concluding that drilling or using the injection well will not endanger or injure any known oil or gas reservoir. The TCEQ would not be authorized to proceed to hearing on an application until the letter is provided.

The bill would provide that the Railroad Commission (RRC) has jurisdiction over injection of CO2 into a reservoir that is initially productive of oil, gas, or geothermal resources or a saline formation directly above or below that reservoir. Any well initially completed under the jurisdiction of the RRC would remain under the jurisdiction of the RRC, notwithstanding the well’s subsequent use for CO2 injection.

The bill would prohibit a person from drilling or operating a CO2 injection well or constructing or operating a geologic storage facility without first obtaining a permit from the RRC. The bill would allow the RRC to impose fees to recover its costs for permitting, monitoring, and inspection of CO2 injection wells and geologic storage facilities. The fees would be deposited to the credit of a newly created special fund in the state treasury to be known as the Anthropogenic Carbon Dioxide Trust Fund. The fund could be used only by the RRC for activities relating to CO2 injection and storage.

The bill would provide that an application to the RRC must include a letter from the Executive Director of the TCEQ stating that drilling and operating a CO2 injection well or operating the geologic storage facility will not endanger any freshwater strata in that area and that the formation or stratum to be used for the geologic storage facility is not freshwater sand. The bill would require the RRC to adopt rules for injection and geologic storage of CO2 including geologic site characterization, acquisition of property rights, area of review and corrective action, well construction, operation, mechanical integrity testing, monitoring, well plugging, post-injection site care, site closure, long-term stewardship, enforcement, and the collection of fees and penalties. Rules adopted by the RRC would be required to be consistent and not more stringent than rules or regulations adopted by the US Environmental Protection Agency or another federal agency governing the injection and geologic storage of CO2.

The bill would allow the TCEQ and RRC to enter property and examine records relating to a CO2 injection well or geologic storage facility. Both agencies would also be authorized to require financial assurance for a person to whom an injection well permit is issued to ensure that the injection well is properly plugged and that funds are available for plugging, post-injection site care, and closure. Each state agency would also be authorized to receive funds from the financial assurance mechanism.

The bill would require the Land Commissioner to file a report with the Legislature by December 1, 2010 related to geologic storage on state-owned land. GLO would be required to coordinate with Bureau of Economic Geology, RRC, TCEQ, and the heads of other appropriate agencies.

The bill would requires the TCEQ and RRC to issue a joint report to the Legislature by January 1 of each odd-numbered year providing an assessment of the permitting process for CO2 injection wells and geologic storage facilities and the status of the compliance with any federal rules.

Methodology

The bill would require TCEQ and Railroad Commission to conduct rulemaking, prepare reports, and operate within each agency's respective jurisdiction as prescribed by the bill with respect to injection wells.

This estimate assumes that the TCEQ would require 2.0 additional FTEs to implement the provisions in the bill. One (1.0) geoscientist and one (1.0) engineer would be needed for rulemaking, regulating of CO2 injection wells under its jurisdiction, implementing and administering the powers and duties relating to the Executive Director’s function for protection of fresh water, as well producing reports and performing coordination with other state entities. Costs to the TCEQ are estimated at \$203,319 in

fiscal year 2010 and \$190,319 per year thereafter. This estimate assumes that the TCEQ's costs would be paid out of the General Revenue Fund.

This estimate assumes that the RRC would require 1.0 additional FTE in 2010 and 2011 to assist in rulemaking, interagency coordination, and establishment of the injection well permitting program. Because the bill would not provide for fees to be collected for deposit to the Anthropogenic Carbon Dioxide Trust Fund until fiscal year 2011, this estimate assumes that the first two years' costs (\$93,458 in 2010 and \$91,448 in 2011) would be paid out of the General Revenue Fund.

This estimate assumes that 2.0 FTEs would be required in fiscal year 2012 and subsequent years to administer the permitting program. It is assumed that costs in these years (\$138,739 in 2012 and \$136,728 in subsequent years) would be paid out of the Anthropogenic Carbon Dioxide Trust Fund.

Costs to the General Land Office in coordinating with other state agencies are not expected to be significant. The General Land Office reports that the bill's passage could result in additional revenue to the Permanent School Fund (PSF) as a result of collection of storage fees, surface or submerged surface leases, and other sources of revenue as a result of having a storage facility located on (PSF) lands. The amount of revenue generated would depend on the number and location of storage facilities and the fees and leases collected.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 455 Railroad Commission, 580 Water Development Board, 582 Commission on Environmental Quality

LBB Staff: JOB, WK, ZS, TL