

By: Allen

H.B. No. 1775

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on waste reduction and a statewide waste reduction plan.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(2) "Recycling" has the meaning assigned by Section 361.421, Health and Safety Code.

(3) "Waste reduction" means reducing the amount and toxicity of waste, including:

(A) source reduction, as that term is defined by Section 361.421, Health and Safety Code;

(B) reusing materials or diverting materials from a waste stream before disposal; and

(C) recycling.

SECTION 2. WASTE REDUCTION STAKEHOLDERS COMMITTEE; STUDY.

(a) The commission shall appoint a waste reduction stakeholders committee composed of members interested in waste reduction, including:

(1) two representatives from each of the following:

(A) the business community;

(B) the public sector;

(C) the municipal solid waste industry;

1 (D) the private sector solid waste industry;

2 (E) the private sector recycling industry;

3 (F) the academic community; and

4 (G) the general public; and

5 (2) one representative from a nonprofit organization
6 that promotes recycling statewide.

7 (b) The waste reduction stakeholders committee shall
8 conduct a study regarding waste reduction in this state. The study
9 must:

10 (1) assess current waste reduction efforts and
11 identify ways in which the private and public sectors can improve
12 and increase those efforts;

13 (2) assess the effectiveness of waste reduction
14 statutes, regulations, and programs in this state;

15 (3) assess the extent to which waste reduction
16 programs in this state are duplicative;

17 (4) investigate available funding for waste reduction
18 programs in this state;

19 (5) review waste reduction education programs in this
20 state;

21 (6) review standards in use in this state for:

22 (A) training and certification of waste
23 reduction professionals; and

24 (B) reporting amounts of waste recycled;

25 (7) review waste reduction best practices; and

26 (8) assess job creation opportunities associated with
27 waste reduction.

1 (c) The waste reduction stakeholders committee shall
2 prepare a written report on the results of the study and submit the
3 report to the commission.

4 SECTION 3. HEARING. The commission shall provide notice of
5 and hold at least one public hearing and receive public comments on
6 the results of the study conducted under Section 2 of this Act and
7 on the creation of a statewide waste reduction plan.

8 SECTION 4. STATEWIDE WASTE REDUCTION PLAN. The committee
9 shall prepare a statewide waste reduction plan based on the study
10 and comments from the public hearing or hearings. The plan must
11 include:

12 (1) goals determined by the committee for reducing
13 waste by a certain percentage and date;

14 (2) recommended best practices to help achieve those
15 goals;

16 (3) recommended standards for training and certifying
17 waste reduction professionals;

18 (4) recommended standards for recording and reporting
19 the amount of waste recycled by entities required to report
20 recycled amounts;

21 (5) recommended incentives to promote development of
22 end markets, where materials are diverted from the waste stream and
23 used for economic benefit;

24 (6) suggested sources of funding for implementing the
25 plan;

26 (7) a waste reduction education plan; and

27 (8) recommended state actions that would benefit the

1 economy of this state while:

2 (A) improving and increasing waste reduction
3 efforts; and

4 (B) minimizing the adverse environmental impacts
5 of waste.

6 SECTION 5. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2012, the
7 commission shall submit to the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
8 the house of representatives, and the presiding officer of the
9 standing committee of each house of the legislature with primary
10 jurisdiction over environmental matters a report that includes:

11 (1) the results of the study;

12 (2) a summary of the comments from the public hearing
13 or hearings; and

14 (3) the statewide waste reduction plan prepared by the
15 committee.

16 SECTION 6. EXPIRATION. This Act expires August 31, 2013.

17 SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
18 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
19 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
20 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
21 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2011.