

By: Smith of Harris

H.B. No. 1981

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measuring, monitoring, and reporting emissions.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 382, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 382.0161 and 382.042 to read as follows:

Sec. 382.0161. AIR POLLUTANT WATCH LIST. (a) The commission shall establish and maintain an air pollutant watch list. The air pollutant watch list must identify:

(1) each air contaminant that the commission determines, on the basis of federal or state ambient air quality standards or effects screening levels for the contaminant, should be included on the air pollutant watch list; and

(2) each geographic area of the state for which ambient air quality monitoring data indicates that the individual or cumulative emissions of one or more air contaminants identified by the commission under Subdivision (1) may cause short-term or long-term adverse human health effects or odors in that area.

(b) The commission shall publish notice of and allow public comment on:

(1) an addition of an air contaminant to or removal of an air contaminant from the air pollutant watch list; or

(2) an addition of an area to or removal of an area from the air pollutant watch list.

1       (c) When considering the addition or removal of an area to  
2 the air pollutant watch list, the commission shall provide the  
3 monitoring data related to the area to the state senator and  
4 representative who represent the area.

5       (d) The commission may hold a public meeting in an area  
6 listed on the air pollutant watch list to provide residents of the  
7 area with information regarding:

8             (1) the reasons for the area's inclusion on the air  
9 pollutant watch list; and

10            (2) commission actions to reduce the emissions of air  
11 contaminants contributing to the area's inclusion on the air  
12 pollutant watch list.

13       (e) The air pollutant watch list and the addition or removal  
14 of a pollutant or area to or from the list are not matters subject to  
15 the requirements of Subchapter B, Chapter 2001, Government Code.

16       Sec. 382.042. EFFECTS SCREENING LEVELS. (a) The  
17 commission shall adopt guidelines for effects screening levels for  
18 air contaminants as determined by the commission. Each effects  
19 screening level must:

20             (1) be set in a manner that takes into consideration  
21 acute and chronic health effects on a person resulting from  
22 exposure to an air contaminant;

23             (2) be based in part on the health effects of:

24                (A) the short-term exposure of a person to the  
25 air contaminant from an emission source; and

26                (B) the long-term exposure of a person to the air  
27 contaminant from an emission source; and

1           (3) be set at a level that does not increase the risk  
2 of cancer in a person exposed to the air contaminant by greater than  
3 one chance in 100,000 or another level set by the commission to  
4 protect human health and welfare when compared to a person not  
5 exposed to the contaminant.

6           (b) The commission shall use the adopted effects screening  
7 levels in permit reviews under this chapter of all new and modified  
8 facilities to establish enforceable limits in the permits.

9           (c) Revisions of the effects screening levels are not  
10 subject to Subchapter B, Chapter 2001, Government Code.

11           SECTION 2. Sections 382.0215(e) and (g), Health and Safety  
12 Code, are amended to read as follows:

13           (e) The commission shall develop the capacity for  
14 electronic reporting and shall incorporate reported emissions  
15 events into a permanent online centralized database for emissions  
16 events. The commission shall develop a mechanism whereby the  
17 reporting entity shall be allowed to review the information  
18 relative to its reported emissions events prior to such information  
19 being included in the database. The database shall be easily  
20 searchable and accessible to the public. The commission shall  
21 evaluate information in the database to identify persons who  
22 repeatedly fail to report reportable emissions events. The  
23 commission shall enforce against such persons pursuant to Section  
24 382.0216(i). The commission shall describe such enforcement  
25 actions in the report required in Subsection (g).

26           (g) The commission annually, or at the request of a member  
27 of the legislature, shall assess the information received under

1 this section, including actions taken by the commission in response  
2 to the emissions events, and shall include the assessment in the  
3 report required by Section 5.126, Water Code.

4 SECTION 3. Chapter 505, Health and Safety Code, is amended  
5 by adding Section 505.017 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 505.017. NOTICE ISSUED UNDER EMERGENCIES. (a) When  
7 immediate notification of a release by a facility to the state  
8 emergency response commission is required in accordance with EPCRA,  
9 the state agency responsible for the information submitted to the  
10 state emergency response commission, on receipt of the required  
11 notification, shall make a determination as to whether the release  
12 reported will substantially endanger human health or the  
13 environment.

14 (b) If the responsible state agency determines that a  
15 release will substantially endanger human health or the  
16 environment, the agency shall, on request, notify the state senator  
17 or representative who represents the area in which the facility is  
18 located of the release within four hours of receipt of the original  
19 notification.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.