

By: Davis

S.B. No. 1633

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of rules by the Railroad Commission of Texas regulating the exploration for and production of natural gas in the unincorporated areas of certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 86, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 86.044 to read as follows:

Sec. 86.044. RULES RELATING TO EXPLORATION FOR AND PRODUCTION OF GAS IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF CERTAIN COUNTIES.

(a) The commission shall adopt rules relating to the exploration for and production of gas in the unincorporated areas of counties that are located wholly or partly above a hydrocarbon-producing geological formation that underlies all or part of two counties:

(1) that are adjacent to one another; and

(2) each of which has a population of more than 1.4 million.

(b) Rules adopted under this section must promote gas exploration production while securing the existing economic interests, including property values and development plans along with the quality of life in the unincorporated areas of the counties described by Subsection (a) by addressing:

(1) unique and heightened standards for the benefit of and protection of existing residences, religious institutions, schools, hospitals and public parks;

1 (2) protective requirements related to noise,
2 lighting, water discharge, road damage, production traffic routing
3 and congestion, and impacts or damage to water wells resulting from
4 drilling or production operations; and

5 (3) the proximity and setback of gas wells, disposal
6 facilities, compressor stations, gas treatment facilities and
7 above ground storage tanks;

8 (4) pipeline placement and alignment;

9 (5) vapor recovery and reduced emission completions.

10 (c) In adopting rules under this section, the commission
11 shall consider ordinances adopted by municipalities in counties
12 described by Subsection (a).

13 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2011, the Railroad
14 Commission of Texas shall adopt rules as required by this Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.