

By: Raney

H.B. No. 1115

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the eligibility for grants for natural gas fueling stations under the Texas natural gas vehicle grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 394.005(c), Health and Safety Code, as added by Chapter 892 (S.B. 385), Acts of the 82nd Legislature, Regular Session, 2011, is amended to read as follows:

(c) As a condition of receiving a grant, the qualifying vehicle must be continuously owned, leased, or otherwise commercially financed and registered and operated in the state by the grant recipient until the earlier of the fourth anniversary of the date of reimbursement of the grant-funded expenses or until the date the vehicle has been in operation for 400,000 miles after the date of reimbursement. Not less than 75 percent of the annual use of the qualifying vehicle, either mileage or fuel use as determined by the commission, must occur in:

(1) the counties any part of which are included in the area described by Section 394.010(a-1) [~~394.010(a)~~]; or

(2) counties designated as nonattainment areas within the meaning of Section 107(d) of the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7407).

SECTION 2. Section 394.010, Health and Safety Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

1 (a) In this section, "state highway system" means the
2 highways in this state included in the plan providing for a system
3 of state highways prepared by the executive director of the Texas
4 Department of Transportation under Section 201.103, Transportation
5 Code.

6 (a-1) To ensure that natural gas vehicles purchased,
7 leased, or otherwise commercially financed or repowered under the
8 program have access to fuel, and to build the foundation for a
9 self-sustaining market for natural gas vehicles in Texas, the
10 commission shall award grants to support the development of a
11 network of natural gas vehicle fueling stations:

12 (1) along the interstate highways connecting Houston,
13 San Antonio, Dallas, and Fort Worth; and

14 (2) along the state highway system in counties
15 contained wholly or partly in the triangular area described by
16 Subdivision (1).

17 (a-2) In awarding the grants, the commission shall provide
18 for:

19 (1) strategically placed natural gas vehicle fueling
20 stations in and between the Houston, San Antonio, and Dallas-Fort
21 Worth areas to enable a natural gas vehicle to travel in [~~along~~]
22 that triangular area relying solely on natural gas fuel;

23 (2) grants to be dispersed through a competitive
24 bidding process to offset a portion of the cost of installation of
25 the natural gas dispensing equipment;

26 (3) contracts that require the recipient stations to
27 meet operational, maintenance, and reporting requirements as

1 specified by the commission; and

2 (4) a listing, to be maintained by the commission and
3 made available to the public online, of all natural gas vehicle
4 fueling stations that have received grant funding, including
5 location and hours of operation.

6 (d) Stations funded by grants under this section must be
7 publicly accessible and located not more than three miles from a
8 highway designated as part of the state highway system or an
9 interstate highway system. The commission shall give preference
10 to:

11 (1) stations providing both liquefied natural gas and
12 compressed natural gas at a single location; and

13 (2) stations located not more than one mile from a
14 highway designated as part of:

15 (A) the state highway system; or

16 (B) an interstate highway system.

17 SECTION 3. Chapter 393, Health and Safety Code, as added by
18 Chapter 589 (S.B. 20), Acts of the 82nd Legislature, Regular
19 Session, 2011, is repealed.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.