

By: Allen

H.B. No. 2368

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; and

(C) recycling.

SECTION 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE; STUDY. (a) The commission shall convene an advisory committee established under Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code.

(b) The commission and the advisory committee shall conduct a study regarding waste reduction in this state. The study must:

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

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

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

5           (4) investigate available funding for waste reduction  
6 programs in this state;

7           (5) review waste reduction education programs in this  
8 state;

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

10           (A) training and certification of waste  
11 reduction professionals; and

12           (B) reporting amounts of waste recycled;

13           (7) review waste reduction best practices;

14           (8) assess the economic effects of waste reduction;

15           (9) assess job creation opportunities associated with  
16 recycling; and

17           (10) review recycling activities in this state,  
18 including the materials being recycled and the facilities and  
19 programs that accept or use recycled materials in this state.

20           (c) The advisory committee shall prepare a written report on  
21 the results of the study, submit the report to the commission, and  
22 collaborate with the commission to publish the study on the  
23 commission's Internet website.

24           SECTION 3. GOAL UPDATE. The commission shall use the report  
25 described by Section 2 of this Act to reassess whether the source  
26 reduction and recycling goal established under Section 361.422,  
27 Health and Safety Code, is being achieved and how the goal might be

1 updated.

2           SECTION 4. PLAN UPDATES. The commission shall recommend to  
3 each entity that has adopted a solid waste management plan under  
4 Subchapter D, Chapter 363, Health and Safety Code, ways in which the  
5 entity can update the plan based on the report described by Section  
6 2 of this Act.

7           SECTION 5. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Not later than December  
8 1, 2014, the commission shall submit to the lieutenant governor,  
9 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding  
10 officer of the standing committee of each house of the legislature  
11 with primary jurisdiction over environmental matters a report that  
12 includes the results of the study described by Section 2 of this  
13 Act.

14           SECTION 6. EXPIRATION. This Act expires August 31, 2015.

15           SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
16 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
17 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
18 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
19 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.