

By: Simmons

H.B. No. 281

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a limitation on the expansion of certain landfills.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 361, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Section 361.1231 to read as follows:

Sec. 361.1231. LIMITATION ON EXPANSION OF CERTAIN LANDFILLS. (a) This section applies only to a Type I municipal solid waste landfill that is located:

(1) in a municipality that is located in a county with a population of more than 600,000; and

(2) not more than 500 feet from another municipality located in a county described by Subdivision (1).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, the commission may not approve an application for the issuance, amendment, or renewal of a permit that seeks to expand the area or capacity of a landfill unless the governing body of each municipality described by Subsection (a) first approves by resolution or order the issuance, amendment, or renewal of the permit.

(c) The commission shall provide the members of the legislature who represent the district containing the landfill described in the permit with an opportunity to comment on the application and shall consider those comments in evaluating an application under this subchapter.

1 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
2 an application for the issuance, amendment, or renewal of a permit
3 pending before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on or
4 after the effective date of this Act. A permit issued, amended, or
5 renewed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law
6 in effect when the permit was issued, amended, or renewed, and the
7 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

8 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.