

By: Zaffirini, Hinojosa

S.B. No. 911

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, 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 areas ~~[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. The heading to Section 394.010, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 394.010. CLEAN TRANSPORTATION TRIANGLES ~~[TRIANGLE]~~.

SECTION 3. Section 394.010, Health and Safety Code, is

1 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsections  
2 (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

3 (a) In this section:

4 (1) "Affected county" has the meaning assigned by  
5 Section 386.001.

6 (2) "State highway" means a highway in this state  
7 included in the plan providing for a system of state highways  
8 prepared by the executive director of the Texas Department of  
9 Transportation under Section 201.103, Transportation Code.

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

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

18 (2) along the interstate highways connecting San  
19 Antonio to Corpus Christi and Laredo and the state highways  
20 connecting Corpus Christi and Laredo; [7] and

21 (3) in nonattainment areas and affected counties of  
22 the state.

23 (a-2) In awarding the grants, the commission shall provide  
24 for:

25 (1) strategically placed natural gas vehicle fueling  
26 stations:

27 (A) in and between the Houston, San Antonio, and

1 Dallas-Fort Worth areas to enable a natural gas vehicle to travel in  
2 that triangular area relying solely on natural gas fuel;

3 (B) in and between the Corpus Christi, Laredo,  
4 and San Antonio areas to enable a natural gas vehicle to travel in  
5 that triangular area relying solely on natural gas fuel;~~[7]~~ and

6 (C) in nonattainment areas and affected counties  
7 of the state, to enable a natural gas vehicle to travel in those  
8 areas relying solely on natural gas fuel;

9 (2) the grants to be dispersed through a competitive  
10 bidding process to offset a portion of the cost of installation of  
11 the natural gas dispensing equipment;

12 (3) contracts that require the recipient stations to  
13 meet operational, maintenance, and reporting requirements as  
14 specified by the commission; and

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

19 (d) Stations funded by grants under this section must be  
20 publicly accessible. In awarding grants for stations under this  
21 section, the ~~[The]~~ commission shall give preference to:

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

24 (2) stations located not more than one mile from an  
25 interstate highway ~~[system]~~; and

26 (3) stations located in the triangular areas described  
27 by Subsections (a-2)(1)(A) and (B) ~~[area between the Houston, San~~

1 ~~Antonio, and Dallas-Fort Worth areas].~~

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.