

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 911

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the eligibility for grants for natural gas fueling
3 stations under the Texas natural gas vehicle grant program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 394.005(c), Health and Safety Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

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

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

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

21 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 394.010, Health and
22 Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

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

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

1 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsections
2 (a-1), (a-2), and (d-1) 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
2 along 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
5 along that triangular area relying solely on natural gas fuel; [7]
6 and

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

10 (2) the grants for each region described by Subsection
11 (a-1)(1), (2), or (3) to be dispersed through a competitive bidding
12 process to offset a portion of the cost of installation of the
13 natural gas dispensing equipment;

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

17 (4) for each region described by Subsection (a-1)(1)
18 or (2), a listing, to be maintained by the commission and made
19 available to the public online, of all natural gas vehicle fueling
20 stations that have received grant funding, including location and
21 hours of operation.

22 (d) Stations funded by grants under this section must be
23 publicly accessible and must be located:

24 (1) not more than three miles from an interstate
25 highway described by Subsection (a-1)(1);

26 (2) not more than three miles from an interstate
27 highway or state highway described by Subsection (a-1)(2); or

1 (3) in a nonattainment area or affected county of the
2 state.

3 (d-1) In awarding grants for stations under this section,
4 the [~~The~~] commission shall give preference to:

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

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

9 (3) stations located in the triangular areas described
10 by Subsections (a-2)(1)(A) and (B) [~~area between the Houston, San~~
11 ~~Antonio, and Dallas-Fort Worth areas~~].

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