

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1954

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the authority and obligations of the Texas Commission  
3 on Environmental Quality and the Public Utility Commission of Texas  
4 to comply with and implement a Clean Power Plan.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 382, Health and Safety  
7 Code, is amended by adding Section 382.0174 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 382.0174. COMMISSION AND UTILITY COMMISSION AUTHORITY  
9 AND OBLIGATIONS UNDER CERTAIN FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS. (a) In this  
10 section:

11 (1) "Clean Power Plan" means a final rulemaking action  
12 of the United States Environmental Protection Agency that  
13 establishes carbon pollution guidelines for existing electric  
14 utility generating units under Section 111(d) of the federal Clean  
15 Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7411(d)).

16 (2) "Utility commission" means the Public Utility  
17 Commission of Texas.

18 (b) The commission is the primary authority responsible for  
19 ensuring that this state complies with and implements a Clean Power  
20 Plan. The commission shall, as necessary, submit to the United  
21 State Environmental Protection Agency a state plan or a federal  
22 plan implemented under 42 U.S.C. Section 7411(d) that the  
23 commission has accepted.

24 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission and the

1 utility commission:

2 (1) have the authority necessary to comply with and  
3 implement a Clean Power Plan;

4 (2) shall take measures necessary to comply with or  
5 implement a Clean Power Plan, including adopting, amending, or  
6 repealing rules, collaborating to update or adopt a state plan, or  
7 considering possible acceptance of a federal plan implemented under  
8 42 U.S.C. Section 7411(d);

9 (3) may collaborate with the Railroad Commission of  
10 Texas, the State Energy Conservation Office, and other state  
11 agencies to develop and implement a state plan; and

12 (4) if a Clean Power Plan is established and later  
13 expires or is repealed or invalidated, shall adopt, amend, or  
14 repeal rules adopted under Subdivision (2) as necessary to comply  
15 with or implement 42 U.S.C. Section 7411(d).

16 (d) The commission and the utility commission shall develop  
17 and adopt a memorandum of understanding as necessary to clarify or  
18 provide for their respective duties, responsibilities, or  
19 functions on any matter under the jurisdiction of the commission or  
20 utility commission that relates to a Clean Power Plan and is not  
21 expressly assigned to either the commission or utility commission.

22 (e) On behalf of this state, the governor may execute a  
23 compact with another state to comply with and implement a Clean  
24 Power Plan.

25 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.