

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 569

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a review and report by the Railroad Commission of Texas regarding the oversight and enforcement of unpermitted discharges of oil and gas waste or of other substances or materials associated with certain operations or activities regulated by the commission.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:

(1) "Commission" means the Railroad Commission of Texas.

(2) "Oil and gas waste" has the meaning assigned by Section 91.1011, Natural Resources Code.

(b) Not later than September 1, 2018, the commission shall:

(1) review the commission's rules regarding the prevention, reporting, and documentation of unpermitted discharges of oil and gas waste or of any other substance or material associated with any operation or activity regulated by the commission under Section 91.101(a)(1), (2), or (3), Natural Resources Code, and the enforcement of penalties for unpermitted discharges of such waste, substances, or materials; and

(2) submit to the standing committees in the senate and house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over natural resources a report that:

(A) details the commission's existing rules regarding the prevention, reporting, and documentation of

1 unpermitted discharges of oil and gas waste or of a substance or
2 material described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection and the
3 enforcement of penalties for unpermitted discharges of such waste,
4 substances, or materials;

5 (B) proposes changes to the rules that would
6 improve the commission's ability to prevent, document, and respond
7 to unpermitted discharges of oil and gas waste or of a substance or
8 material described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection and to
9 bring enforcement action against responsible parties; and

10 (C) proposes any legislative action necessary to
11 improve the commission's ability to prevent, document, and respond
12 to unpermitted discharges of oil and gas waste or of a substance or
13 material described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection and to
14 bring enforcement action against responsible parties.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.