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By:  Herrero H.B. No. 4380

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Environmental Task Force Advisory Committee.

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

SECTION 1.  (a) In this section:

(1)  "Advisory committee" means the Environmental Task Force Advisory Committee.

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

(b)  The Environmental Task Force Advisory Committee is composed of the following nine members appointed by the commission:

(1)  seven representatives of the oil and gas industry, including:

(A)  one owner or operator of a facility that handles oil and gas waste; and

(B)  one representative of producers of oil and gas;

(2)  an environmental engineer with experience related to environmental compliance; and

(3)  an attorney with experience in the implementation of environmental laws.

(c)  Members of the advisory committee hold office for terms of two years expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year. A member is ineligible to serve more than two consecutive full terms.

(d)  The advisory committee shall select from its membership a presiding officer and a secretary to serve for one-year terms.

(e)  The advisory committee shall meet at least quarterly.

(f)  The advisory committee may hold public hearings, formal meetings, or work sessions. The advisory committee may not take formal action at a public hearing, formal meeting, or work session unless a quorum of the committee is present.

(g)  A member of the advisory committee is not entitled to receive compensation for service on the committee or reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of official duties as a member of the committee.

(h)  The advisory committee shall:

(1)  review the overall operation and structure of the commission's environmental regulatory functions and rules adopted by the commission to implement and enforce the commission's environmental regulatory functions, including rules related to:

(A)  any memorandum of understanding between the commission and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality relating to the commission's environmental regulatory functions; and

(B)  the handling and disposal of oil and gas waste; and

(2)  provide recommendations to the commission for proposed changes to improve and add clarity to rules related to the commission's environmental regulatory functions.

(i)  The advisory committee may adopt rules, procedures, and policies as needed to administer this section and implement its responsibilities.

(j)  Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the size, composition, or duration of the advisory committee.

(k)  This section expires and the advisory committee is dissolved on September 1, 2023.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.