

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 1147

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a requirement that the Railroad Commission of Texas  
3 require the installation and use of subsurface safety valves on oil  
4 and gas wells drilled in certain areas.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 91, Natural Resources  
7 Code, is amended by adding Section 91.1016 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 91.1016. SUBSURFACE SAFETY VALVES IN CERTAIN AREAS.

9 (a) To prevent spills or releases of oil, gas, and related  
10 hydrocarbons, the commission by rule shall require the installation  
11 and use of subsurface safety valves in oil and gas wells drilled in:

12 (1) bays and estuaries;

13 (2) flood zones, particularly areas adjacent to rivers  
14 or other bodies of water; and

15 (3) areas subject to hurricanes or other catastrophic  
16 events.

17 (b) To determine whether a subsurface safety valve  
18 installed in an oil or gas well is working properly, the commission  
19 may inspect the valve or require the operator of the well to submit  
20 to the commission information about the valve.

21 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
22 to an oil or gas well for which the application for the drilling  
23 permit is submitted to the Railroad Commission of Texas on or after  
24 the effective date of the rules adopted under Section 91.1016,

1 Natural Resources Code, as added by this Act. A well for which the  
2 application for the drilling permit is submitted before the date  
3 the rules take effect is governed by the law in effect when the  
4 application is submitted, and that law is continued in effect for  
5 that purpose.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.