

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 2064

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to methane gas reduction by The University of Texas  
3 System.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 66, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 66.455 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 66.455. METHANE REDUCTION PLANS. Under each lease  
8 relating to oil or gas issued under this subchapter, the lessee  
9 shall implement a methane reduction plan reviewed and approved by  
10 the board of regents of The University of Texas System under  
11 procedures adopted by the board. The University of Texas Bureau of  
12 Economic Geology shall assist the board and the lessee in matters  
13 relating to the plan.

14 SECTION 2. (a) In this section, "bureau" means The  
15 University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology.

16 (b) The bureau shall:

17 (1) conduct a study on best practices in the reduction  
18 of methane emissions from oil and gas operations; and

19 (2) develop recommendations for legislation that  
20 would result in the implementation of best practices in the  
21 reduction of methane emissions from oil and gas operations.

22 (c) The study must investigate:

23 (1) the technical and economic potential to minimize  
24 methane emissions from oil and gas operations on land held by The

1 University of Texas System;

2 (2) standards in place in other states and across the  
3 industry to minimize methane emissions from oil and gas operations;

4 (3) the savings achievable through the adoption of  
5 standards identified in Subdivision (2); and

6 (4) policies designed to reduce methane gas emissions  
7 on land held by The University of Texas System.

8 (d) Not later than December 1, 2020, the bureau shall submit  
9 to each standing committee of the legislature having primary  
10 jurisdiction over oil and gas development:

11 (1) a report of the findings of the study conducted  
12 under this section; and

13 (2) recommendations for legislation that would result  
14 in the implementation of best practices in the reduction of methane  
15 emissions from oil and gas operations.

16 (e) This section expires January 1, 2021.

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