

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
87R11365 DRS-F

H.B. 1501  
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Natural Resources & Economic Development  
5/19/2021  
Engrossed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

It has been noted that natural gas is a vital part of the Texas economy and that nearly half of Texas homes use natural gas or propane for heating, cooking, and powering other home appliances and achieve annual savings in doing so. However, a growing number of cities across the country have begun restricting or outright banning natural gas or propane hookups for appliances in new buildings and construction. This trend has reached Texas, where the City of Austin, among others, has considered proposals to phase out the use of hookups fueled by certain fossil fuels as part of a revision of the city's climate plan. There have been calls for the state to pass legislation preempting local measures restricting or banning the use of an appliance or other system or component that is fueled by natural gas or propane in order to preserve customer choice and allow all Texas homeowners, builders, and businesses to decide how to meet their own energy needs. H.B. 1501 seeks to provide for such preemption.

H.B. 1501 amends current law relating to certain regulations adopted by a governmental entity restricting the use of a natural gas or propane appliance or other system or component.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 3000, Government Code, by adding Section 3000.0021, as follows:

Sec. 3000.0021. CERTAIN REGULATIONS REGARDING RESTRICTION OF NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE. (a) Prohibits a governmental entity, notwithstanding any other law, from adopting or enforcing a rule, charter provision, ordinance, order, or other regulation that prohibits or restricts, directly or indirectly, the use of an appliance or other system or component that is fueled by natural gas or propane in the construction, renovation, maintenance, or alteration of a residential or commercial building.

(b) Provides that a rule, charter provision, ordinance, order, or other regulation adopted by a governmental entity that conflicts with this section is void.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2021.