By: Landgraf, Guillen, Ellzey, Toth,   H.B. No. 1683
     Morales of Maverick

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the enforcement of certain federal laws regulating oil

3 and gas operations within the State of Texas.

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

5   SECTION 1. Subtitle A, Title 3, Natural Resources Code, is

6 amended by adding Chapter 82 to read as follows:

7   CHAPTER 82. ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL LAWS

8   Sec. 82.0101. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "oil and gas

9 operation" has the meaning assigned by Section 81.0523.

10   Sec. 82.0102. ENFORCEMENT   OF   CERTAIN   FEDERAL   LAWS

11 REGULATING OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS. (a) An agency of this state or a

12 person employed by an agency of this state may not contract with or

13 in any other manner provide assistance to a federal agency or

14 official with respect to the enforcement of a federal statute,

15 order, rule, or regulation purporting to regulate oil and gas

16 operations if the statute, order, rule, or regulation imposes a

17 prohibition, restriction, or other regulation that does not exist

18 under the laws of this state.

19   (b) The attorney general shall defend any agency of this

20 state that the federal government attempts to sue for an action or

21 omission consistent with the requirements of this section.

22   (c) This section does not prohibit a state agency from

23 entering into a memorandum of agreement with a federal agency to

24 implement a federal law if otherwise authorized by state law,

1 including a memorandum of agreement that authorizes the state

2 agency to execute authority delegated to that state agency by the

3 federal agency.

4   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

8 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.