

MINUTES

SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Monday, June 13, 2022

10:00 AM

Capitol Extension, Room E1.012

Pursuant to a notice posted in accordance with Senate Rule 11.10 and 11.18, a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development was held on Monday, June 13, 2022, in the Capitol Extension, Room E1.012, at Austin, Texas.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair
Senator Judith Zaffirini, Vice Chair
Senator Carol Alvarado
Senator Kelly Hancock
Senator Juan Hinojosa
Senator Lois Kolkhorst
Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.
Senator Kel Seliger

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Bryan Hughes

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. There being a quorum present, the following business was transacted:

The following members arrived after the roll was called: Senator Alvarado

Other Senate members attending: Senator Sarah Eckhardt

The Chair laid out the following Committee charge:

- **Wildfires and Prescribed Burns:** Examine ways to reduce the risk of and destructive impact of wildfires. Monitor the role the Prescribed Burning Board plays in controlled burns. Recommend practices and improvements that public and private landowners may use to reduce fire risks.

The following individuals provided invited testimony (see attached witness list).

Texas A&M AgriLife

Dr. Rick Avery, Director

Dr. Bill Fox, Associate Professor & Extension Specialist

Texas A&M Forest Service

Al Davis, Interim Director

Rich Gray, Chief Regional Fire Coordinator

Texas Department of Agriculture – Texas Prescribed Burn Board

Justin Penick, Chairman, Texas Prescribed Burn Board

Texas Division of Emergency Management

Nim Kidd, Chief

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Carter Smith, Executive Director

The Chair laid out the following Committee charges:

- **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Economic Development passed by the 87th Legislature, as well as relevant agencies and programs under the committee's jurisdiction. Specifically, make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, or complete implementation of the following:

House Bill 1247, Relating to the development of and report on a tri-agency work-based learning strategic framework by the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The following individuals provided invited testimony (see attached witness list).

Texas Education Agency

Monica Martinez, Associate Commissioner for Standards and Support

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Tina, Jackson, Assistant Commissioner of Workforce Education

Texas Workforce Commission

Kerry Ballast, Deputy Division Director for Workforce Education

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House Bill 4110, Relating to the registration of metal recycling.

The following individuals provided invited testimony (see attached witness list).

Texas Department of Public Safety

Jason Hester, Assistant Chief, Regulatory Division

Texas Automobile Dealers Association

Claire McDonald, Legislative Chair

Recycling Council of Texas

Mel Wright, President

There being no further business, at 2:55 PM Senator Birdwell moved that the Committee stand recessed subject to the call of the chair. Without objection, it was so ordered.

Senator Brian Birdwell, Chair

David Estrada, Clerk