By:  Birdwell, Hall S.B. No. 1017

(In the Senate - Filed February 17, 2023; March 3, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce; March 31, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; March 31, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Schwertner           X

King                 X

Birdwell             X

Campbell             X

Creighton            X

Johnson              X

Kolkhorst            X

Menéndez             X

Middleton            X

Nichols              X

Zaffirini            X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1017 By:  Birdwell

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a political subdivision to regulate an energy source or engine.

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

SECTION 1.  Subtitle C, Title 7, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 247 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 247. REGULATION OF ENERGY SOURCES AND ENGINES

Sec. 247.001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Energy source" means any fuel or power source used to power an engine.

(2)  "Engine" means a machine for converting an energy source into mechanical force and motion, including a generator or an internal combustion engine.

(3)  "Political subdivision" includes a county, municipality, special district, school district, junior college district, or housing authority.

(4)  "Retail service station" has the meaning assigned by Section 753.001, Health and Safety Code.

Sec. 247.002.  RESTRICTION ON REGULATION OF ENERGY SOURCES. (a) A political subdivision may not adopt or enforce an ordinance, order, regulation, or similar measure that limits access to an energy source or that results in the effective prohibition of infrastructure that is necessary to provide access to a specific energy source, including a wholesaler, retailer, energy producer, or related infrastructure, including a retail service station.

(b)  This section does not limit the authority of a political subdivision to adopt or enforce an ordinance, order, regulation, or similar measure relating to an energy source, or infrastructure that is necessary to provide access to a specific energy source, that:

(1)  provides siting requirements, including siting requirements involving certain geographic areas;

(2)  does not effectively prohibit the operation of an energy source or infrastructure that is necessary to provide access to a specific energy source; and

(3)  is not preempted by state or federal law.

Sec. 247.003.  RESTRICTION ON REGULATION OF ENGINES. (a) A political subdivision may not adopt or enforce an ordinance, order, regulation, or similar measure that directly prohibits or restricts the use, sale, or lease of an engine based on its fuel source.

(b)  This section does not limit the authority of a political subdivision to adopt or enforce an ordinance, order, regulation, or similar measure not preempted by state or federal law that:

(1)  does not effectively prohibit or restrict the use, sale, or lease of the engine;

(2)  implements an agreement between the political subdivision and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to regulate motor vehicle idling under Section 382.019, Health and Safety Code; or

(3)  only affects an engine owned or operated by the political subdivision.

(c)  This section does not limit the authority of a political subdivision to adopt an ordinance, order, regulation, resolution, policy, or other similar measure to encourage, promote, or provide rebates for cleaner engines and cleaner fuel sources and that does not directly or effectively ban, restrict, or prohibit the use, sale, or lease of an engine based on the engine's fuel source.

(d)  Section 81.0523, Natural Resources Code, prevails to the extent of a conflict with this section.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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