By: Zwiener H.B. No. 4225

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study conducted by the Railroad Commission of Texas to determine the net reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere resulting from the use of carbon capture, utilization, and storage technology.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Carbon capture technology" means technology that captures, stores, and uses high concentrations of carbon dioxide.

(2) "Commission" means the Railroad Commission of Texas.

SECTION 2. STUDY. (a) The commission shall conduct a study of ongoing carbon capture technology projects to:

(1) assess the net reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere resulting from the use of carbon capture technology; and

(2) determine whether each carbon capture technology examined removes more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than it contributes.

(b) In conducting the study under Subsection (a) of this section, the commission shall:

(1) establish an accounting framework that includes a project life-cycle analysis to determine the net amount of carbon dioxide sequestered from projects using carbon capture technology;

and

(2) coordinate with the Bureau of Economic Geology of The University of Texas at Austin, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and other appropriate agencies.

(c) For a carbon capture technology project included in the study under Subsection (a) of this section, the study must:

(1) establish a method of accurately measuring and reporting the volumes of carbon dioxide captured by the project;

(2) accurately identify the amount of carbon dioxide the project removes from the atmosphere; and

(3) determine whether the project provides a net reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over the project's life-cycle based on the amount of carbon dioxide removed and the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the sequestration activities.

(d) To the extent that carbon capture technology projects are used for enhanced oil recovery operations, the study must:

(1) account for whether those enhanced oil recovery operations on the whole result in:

(A) an increase of the total amount of the oil produced by operations using that technology and by operations not using that technology; or

(B) a decrease in the amount of oil produced by operations not using that technology in an amount that equals or exceeds the amount of oil produced by operations using that technology; and

(2) account for contributions to the atmosphere of carbon dioxide from the projects.

SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than September 1, 2024, the commission shall prepare and submit a report to the legislature that includes:

(1) the methodology used to perform the study;

(2) the information already available to the commission and any information needed to provide an accurate accounting of how much carbon dioxide each carbon capture technology project removes from the atmosphere;

(3) the information needed to assess different types of carbon capture technology, including direct air capture technology; and

(4) a framework that would allow the commission to accurately assess the effectiveness of all ongoing carbon capture technology projects and the likely effectiveness of carbon capture technology projects to be considered in the future.

SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2025.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.