

By: Birdwell

S.B. No. 785

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the ownership by a landowner of the geothermal energy and associated resources below the surface of the landowner's land.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 141, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 141.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 141.004. OWNERSHIP OF GEOTHERMAL ENERGY AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCES. A landowner owns the geothermal energy and associated resources below the surface of the landowner's land as real property. Subject to the provisions of this chapter, the property rights described by this section entitle the landowner and the landowner's lessee, heir, or assign to drill for and produce the geothermal energy and associated resources below the surface of the landowner's land.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.