

By: Sparks, et al.

S.B. No. 494

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a theft of petroleum products task force.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:

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

(2) "Theft of petroleum product" means conduct constituting an offense under Section 31.19, Penal Code.

(b) The commission shall appoint a task force to study and make recommendations related to preventing the theft of petroleum products in this state.

(c) The task force must include:

(1) at least one representative from the oil and gas industry;

(2) at least one representative from an energy trade association; and

(3) representatives from local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

(d) The commission shall designate a member of the task force as the presiding officer.

(e) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the presiding officer. A task force meeting may be conducted virtually through the Internet.

1           (f) The task force shall conduct an ongoing study of the  
2 theft of petroleum products in this state. In conducting the study,  
3 the task force shall:

4               (1) review laws and regulations addressing the theft  
5 of petroleum products in other jurisdictions, including  
6 international political and economic organizations;

7               (2) analyze:

8                   (A) the impact of the theft of petroleum products  
9 on the collection of sales tax;

10                  (B) the long-term economic impacts of the theft  
11 of petroleum products; and

12                  (C) the advantages and disadvantages of taking  
13 various actions to reduce the theft of petroleum products; and

14               (3) make recommendations regarding:

15                   (A) theft of petroleum product outreach and  
16 prevention programs, including coordination among stakeholders,  
17 including local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and

18                   (B) training for law enforcement officers and  
19 prosecutors on effective strategies for combating the theft of  
20 petroleum products.

21           (g) In conducting the study under Subsection (f) of this  
22 section, the members of the task force may:

23               (1) consult with any organization, governmental  
24 entity, or person the task force considers necessary; and

25               (2) collaborate and share information relating to an  
26 active criminal investigation with one another regardless of  
27 whether the information would otherwise be confidential and not

1 subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

2 (h) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,  
3 the task force shall prepare and submit a report of the study  
4 conducted under Subsection (f) of this section to the governor, the  
5 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
6 the commission, and each standing committee of the legislature with  
7 primary jurisdiction over oil and gas matters.

8 (i) The report submitted under Subsection (h) of this  
9 section:

10 (1) must include legislative and other  
11 recommendations to increase transparency, improve security,  
12 enhance consumer protections, prevent the theft of petroleum  
13 products, and address the long-term economic impact of the theft of  
14 petroleum products; and

15 (2) may be submitted electronically.

16 (j) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the  
17 duration of the task force or to the designation of the task force's  
18 presiding officer.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
20 of this Act, the Railroad Commission of Texas shall appoint the  
21 theft of petroleum products task force as required by this Act.

22 SECTION 3. This Act expires December 31, 2030.

23 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.