

1-1 By: Sparks, Blanco, Flores S.B. No. 494
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed November 22, 2024;
1-3 February 3, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Natural Resources; March 5, 2025, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; March 5, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

| 1-7 | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----------|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-8 | Birdwell | X | | |
| 1-9 | Zaffirini | X | | |
| 1-10 | Alvarado | X | | |
| 1-11 | Blanco | X | | |
| 1-12 | Flores | X | | |
| 1-13 | Hancock | X | | |
| 1-14 | Hughes | | X | |
| 1-15 | Parker | X | | |
| 1-16 | Sparks | X | | |

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the establishment of a theft of petroleum products task
1-20 force.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:

1-23 (1) "Commission" means the Railroad Commission of
1-24 Texas.

1-25 (2) "Theft of petroleum product" means conduct
1-26 constituting an offense under Section 31.19, Penal Code.

1-27 (b) The commission shall appoint a task force to study and
1-28 make recommendations related to preventing the theft of petroleum
1-29 products in this state.

1-30 (c) The task force must include:

1-31 (1) at least one representative from the oil and gas
1-32 industry;

1-33 (2) at least one representative from an energy trade
1-34 association; and

1-35 (3) representatives from local, state, and federal law
1-36 enforcement agencies.

1-37 (d) The commission shall designate a member of the task
1-38 force as the presiding officer.

1-39 (e) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call
1-40 of the presiding officer. A task force meeting may be conducted
1-41 virtually through the Internet.

1-42 (f) The task force shall conduct an ongoing study of the
1-43 theft of petroleum products in this state. In conducting the study,
1-44 the task force shall:

1-45 (1) review laws and regulations addressing the theft
1-46 of petroleum products in other jurisdictions, including
1-47 international political and economic organizations;

1-48 (2) analyze:

1-49 (A) the impact of the theft of petroleum products
1-50 on the collection of sales tax;

1-51 (B) the long-term economic impacts of the theft
1-52 of petroleum products; and

1-53 (C) the advantages and disadvantages of taking
1-54 various actions to reduce the theft of petroleum products; and

1-55 (3) make recommendations regarding:

1-56 (A) theft of petroleum product outreach and
1-57 prevention programs, including coordination among stakeholders,
1-58 including local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies; and

1-59 (B) training for law enforcement officers and
1-60 prosecutors on effective strategies for combating the theft of
1-61 petroleum products.

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

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

(2) collaborate and share information relating to an active criminal investigation with one another regardless of whether the information would otherwise be confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

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

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

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

(2) may be submitted electronically.

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

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

SECTION 3. This Act expires December 31, 2030.

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

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