

SUBJECT: Prohibiting the land application of grease or grit trap waste

COMMITTEE: Environmental Regulation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Pickett, E. Thompson, Dale, Landgraf, Lozano, Reynolds, E. Rodriguez

0 nays

2 absent — Cyrier, Kacal

WITNESSES: For — Eric Magee, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Robin Schneider, Texas Campaign for the Environment; Clint Ives, Victoria County; David Lewis; Dorothy Simons (*Registered, but did not testify*); David Foster, Clean Water Action; Annalisa Peace, Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Mark Mendez, Tarrant County; Jason Skaggs, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association; Rick Thompson, Texas Association of Counties; Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment; Donald Lee, Texas Conference of Urban Counties; Ty Embrey, Water Environment Association of Texas; Heather Cooke, Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies (TACWA), Water Environment Association of Texas)

Against — George Salzman, City of LaCoste; Erich Birch; Stephen Earhart; Jess L Mayfield; Carter Mayfield; (*Registered, but did not testify*); Stephen Minick, Texas Association of Business Perry Fowler;)

On — David Galindo, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

DIGEST: CSHB 2092 would prohibit the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) from issuing a permit, registration, or other authorization for land application of grease trap waste.

The bill would define the terms "grease trap," "grit trap," and "grit trap waste," and would not apply to:

- disposal of grease or grit trap waste at a municipal solid waste Type I landfill permitted by TCEQ;
- processing of grease or grit trap waste at a municipal solid waste Type V compost facility permitted by TCEQ; or
- land application of Grade 1 or Grade 2 compost generated at a Type V compost facility permitted to compost grease trap waste by TCEQ.

The bill would define “grease trap waste” as a material collected in and from a grease interceptor in the sanitary sewer line of a commercial, institutional, or industrial food service or processing facility, including the solids resulting from a dewatering process.

The bill would define “grip trap waste” as the waste collected in a grit trap. It would include waste from an interceptor placed in a drain at maintenance and repair shops, automobile service stations, car washes, laundries, and other similar facilities.

Any part of an authorization issued by TCEQ that allowed the land application of grease trap waste would expire on the bill's effective date.

The bill would take effect immediately if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 2092 would prevent environmental health hazards and potential risks to groundwater by prohibiting the land application of grease or grit trap waste. The chemicals found in grease and grit trap waste are persistent, toxic, and highly concentrated, and have been scientifically demonstrated to pose a threat to the environment and to public health.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

CSHB 2092 unnecessarily would prohibit the application of grease or grit trap waste, which diverts the waste from landfills, improves soil quality, and provides an economic use for an otherwise unusable product. Grease and grit trap waste uses do not violate TCEQ guidelines for hazardous

materials.

NOTES:

A companion bill, SB 746 by Kolkhorst, was left pending in the Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee following a public hearing on March 28.