

- SUBJECT:** Extending the interval between inspections of certain boilers
- COMMITTEE:** Licensing and Administrative Procedures — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — T. King, Goldman, Harless, Herrero, K. King, Kuempel, Paddie, S. Thompson
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — Geren, Guillen, Hernandez
- WITNESSES:** For — Will Nipper, Dow Chemical; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Joe Arnold and Mike Meroney, BASF Corporation; Daniel Womack, Dow Chemical; Samantha Omev and Keith Strama, ExxonMobil; Bill Oswald, Koch Companies; Courtney Reid, LyondellBasell; Austin McCarty, Texas Chemical Council)
- Against — None
- On — Steve Bruno, Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
- BACKGROUND:** Health and Safety Code ch. 755 defines a process steam generator as an evaporator, heat exchanger, or vessel in which steam is generated by the use of heat resulting from the operation of a processing system that contains a number of pressure vessels, such as used in the manufacture of chemical and petroleum products.
- Sec. 755.026 permits an extension of the interval between internal inspections of steam collection drums of process steam generators, with the approval of the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and the inspection agency that has jurisdiction over the boiler. The inspection interval may be extended to the next scheduled downtime but may not exceed a total of 120 months. The extension may be granted only under certain conditions.

It has been suggested that the interval time for inspections be extended in the case of more modern process steam generators and that inspection authorities should be allowed discretion in granting inspection extensions.

DIGEST:

CSHB 2228 would increase to 144 months the length of time the inspection interval could be extended for steam collection or liberation drums of process steam generators manufactured on or after January 1, 1970.

The bill would allow the executive director of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation and the appropriate inspection agency to grant, on request, an additional extension of the inspection interval of no more than 24 months for steam collection or liberation drums of process steam generators manufactured before January 1, 1970. This request would have to include a report from a certified engineer certifying that:

- a quantitative engineering assessment for in-service equipment, repairs, and alterations prescribed by the National Board Inspection Code had been completed to industry standards; and
- the industrial equipment in question was safe to operate.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.