

SUBJECT: Promoting the use of recyclables as feedstock for manufacturing

COMMITTEE: Environmental Regulation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Lozano, Kacal, Kuempel, Morrison, Reynolds, J. Turner, Zwiener

0 nays

2 absent — E. Thompson, Blanco

WITNESSES: For — Gwendalyn Gebghardt, Coastal Wire Company; Stephen Minick, Republic Services; Jordan Fengel, Joan Meeks, Steve Shannon, State of Texas Alliance for Recycling; Chris Macomb, Waste Management of Texas Inc.; *(Registered, but did not testify:* Brie Franco, City of Austin; Tammy Embrey, City of Corpus Christi; Doug Miller, Commercial Metals Company; Warlan Dominic Rivera, Environment Texas; Aimee Bertrand, Harris County Commissioners Court; Trent Townsend, Liberty Tire Recycling; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Bill Kelly, City of Houston Mayor's Office; NewGen Strategies & Solutions; Adrian Shelley, Public Citizen; Buddy Garcia, Tex-Mex Recycling; Mark Vickery, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Andrew Dobbs, Texas Campaign for the Environment; Monty Wynn, Texas Municipal League; Alexis Tatum, Travis County Commissioners Court; Amy Wang)

Against — None

On — *(Registered, but did not testify:* David Greer, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)

DIGEST: CSHB 286 would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to cooperate with the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office to produce a plan and corresponding education program to stimulate the use of non-metallic recyclables as feedstock in processing and manufacturing.

Material for consideration in the plan and education program would include paper, plastic, glass, vegetative waste, compost, mulch, tires, electronic waste, construction and demolition debris, batteries, and paint.

Recyclables plan. The plan would be required to identify:

- the quantity and type of recyclable materials currently recycled from municipalities and industry;
- the quantity and type of recyclable materials that are produced but not recycled and the potential economic benefits of recycling them;
- the location, processing capacity, and consumption capacity of existing principal processors and manufacturers;
- the barriers to increasing the use of recyclable materials as feedstock for principal processors and manufacturers and means to eliminate those barriers; and
- the need and type of principal processing and manufacturing facilities necessary to consume the existing and potential volumes of recyclable materials.

The plan would be required to recommend methods, means, and processes the state and local governments could apply to increase the use of recyclable materials, stimulate the use of recyclable materials by principal processors and manufacturers, and encourage the expansion of existing principal processors and manufacturers and the development of new ones that use recyclable materials.

The plan would be prohibited from requiring the use of a particular recyclable processing or manufacturing facility. Where practical, the plan would be required to use the approaches and findings of previous economic studies on recycling.

Education program. CSHB 286 would require TCEQ, in conjunction with other state agencies, to develop a public education program using billboards, public service announcements, social media, and other methods.

The educational program would include information on:

- the economic benefits of recycling;
- a spotlight of collectors and processors of recyclable materials and manufacturers in Texas that are using recyclable materials as feedstock; and
- the detrimental effects of contamination in the recyclable materials stream and the need to reduce those effects.

Deadlines. TCEQ and the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office would be required to submit a progress report on the plan and education program to the governor and the Municipal Solid Waste Management and Resource Recovery Advisory Council by September 1, 2020. The plan would have to be completed and made publicly available and the education program implemented by September 1, 2021.

The plan and education program would be updated every four years. TCEQ would be authorized to enter into contracts with public, private, and nonprofit organizations to produce the plan and education program.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

SUPPORTERS
SAY:

CSHB 286 would promote economic and job growth, as well as the conservation of valuable natural resources in Texas by further developing the state's recycling industry. Texas is in a unique position to build a more robust market for recycled materials, and the bill's education program would help prevent contamination and increase the materials' value.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

CSHB 286 would result in the state interfering in private industry to artificially create market winners. If there is a market for using recyclables as feedstock in manufacturing and production, the private sector will develop it on its own.