

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1999  
By: Merritt (Bivins)  
Natural Resources  
4-23-97  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, the Railroad Commission of Texas (commission), under the Texas Experimental Resource and Recovery Activity (TERRA) program, may place mechanically sound non-polluting wells into TERRA, where the wells will remain until placed back into active service or plugged by the commission. The commission has determined that abandoned equipment at TERRA well-sites should be removed. The equipment could be stolen, cause injury, or be a source of pollution of the surface. TERRA wells should also have clean well bores; equipment such as rods, tubing, and pumps should not be allowed to remain in the well where they deteriorate over time, making it more difficult and expensive to return the well to active service or to plug the well. Under current law, the commission has no authority to dispose of this well-site equipment. This bill will authorize the commission to dispose of well-site equipment from a wellbore transferred to TERRA.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, H.B. 1999 authorizes the Texas Railroad Commission to dispose of well-site equipment from a wellbore transferred to the Texas Experimental Resource and Recovery Activity program.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 93.013, Natural Resources Code, by adding Subsection (g), to authorize the Railroad Commission of Texas to dispose of well-site equipment from a wellbore transferred to the Texas Experimental Resource and Recovery Activity (TERRA) program in a commercially reasonable manner as provided by Section 89.085(a)(2) without entering into a contract to plug the well.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.