

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R10978 MXM-F

H.B. 1574
By: Bosse (Brown)
Natural Resources
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Engrossed

DIGEST

A number of older residential subdivisions in Harris County were developed with lots insufficient in size to accommodate individual water and wastewater disposal facilities. These subdivisions are mostly in areas where septic systems are not feasible and a public sewer is unavailable. Households within these subdivisions are currently discharging their untreated sewage into roadside ditches or culverts, causing a public health hazard to the community. This bill would authorize a county of 2.8 million or more to authorize the discharge of treated sewage into or adjacent to water in this state by small, inexpensive land aerobic systems meeting certain criteria.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1574 authorizes a county of 2.8 million or more to authorize the discharge of treated sewage into or adjacent to water in this state by small, inexpensive land aerobic systems meeting certain criteria.

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 Chapter 26B, Water Code, by adding Section 26.0405, as follows:

Sec. 26.0405. GENERAL PERMITS FOR CERTAIN SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL SYSTEMS. (a) Requires the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), to the extent not in conflict with state water quality standards or federal law, to issue one or more general permits for the discharge of treated sewage into or adjacent to water in this state by a sewage treatment and disposal system that meets certain criteria.

(b) Provides that a person who discharges under a permit issued under this section is not required to hold a certificate of competency issued under Section 26.0301, Water Code.

(c) Requires TNRCC to specify the design, operation, and maintenance requirements and establish the primary and secondary treatment requirements for a permit issued under this section.

(d) Provides that a system for which a permit is issued under this section is subject to design criteria established under Chapter 366, Health and Safety Code, and is not subject to design criteria established under Section 26.034.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.