

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R9231 SMH-D

S.B. 1338
By: Ogden
Natural Resources
3/26/2001
Committee Report (Amended)

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

The 76th Legislature, by rider in the General Appropriations Act, required the Railroad Commission of Texas to perform a study on the effectiveness of the existing state rules and regulations related to the detection, control, and disposal of oil and gas naturally occurring radioactive material (NORM) waste and report the findings of the study to the governor and the legislature. This bill follows up on that study. As proposed, S.B. 1338 authorizes the Railroad Commission to require the identification of oil and gas equipment that contains, or is contaminated with, NORM.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority expressly granted to the Railroad Commission of Texas is modified in SECTION 1 (Section 401.415, Health and Safety Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 401.415, Health and Safety Code, to authorize the Railroad Commission of Texas, notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in order to protect public health and safety and the environment, to require the owner or operator of oil and gas equipment used in exploration, production, or disposal to perform certain functions regarding equipment contaminated with oil or gas NORM. Makes a conforming change. Deletes text regarding January 1, 1995.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Amends As Filed S.B. 1338, Section 401.415, Health and Safety Code, to replace the text “require the owner or operator of oil and gas equipment to” with “require the owner or operator of oil and gas equipment used in exploration, production, or disposal to.” Replaces the text “notify the railroad commission regarding any equipment” with “identify any equipment.” Omits “waste” in Subsection (a)(2)(B).