

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R1103 MI-F

S.B. 828
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Natural Resources
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

In 1987, the Texas On-site Water Treatment Research Council (council) was created to address such problems as possible ground and surface water pollution caused by septic tanks and other on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems. Currently the council, which is due to be abolished in September 2001 unless continued by the legislature according to the recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission, performs research that evaluates the performance of on-site wastewater systems. The council also funds projects that use new technologies and systems in order to lower costs, decrease maintenance, and prevent pollution in environmentally sensitive areas. As proposed, S.B. 828 continues the council for another eight years and authorizes the council to award competitive grants for certain research and projects to certain areas being served by failing on-site wastewater treatment systems.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the On-site Wastewater Treatment Research Council (council) in SECTION 2 (Section 367.0085, Health and Safety Code)

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 367.003(a), Health and Safety Code, to provide that the On-site Wastewater Treatment Research Council (council) is abolished and this chapter expires on September 1, 2009, rather than 2001.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 367, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 367.0085, as follows:

Sec. 367.0085. SMALL COMMUNITY GRANTS. (a) Authorizes the council to award competitive grants under Section 367.008(b) for applied research and demonstration projects described by that section that include the improvement or provision of on-site wastewater treatment at more than one residential site.

(b) Provides that a grant authorized by this section is available only for a project located in an incorporated or unincorporated area which meets certain requirements.

(c) Requires the council by rule to adopt eligibility requirements for grants authorized by this section, including the maximum number of residential sites that may be included in a project.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2001.