

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
85R22818 JXC-F

H.B. 2582  
By: Sheffield (Buckingham)  
Natural Resources & Economic Development  
5/4/2017  
Engrossed

### **AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT**

Terrazzo is an ancient artistic form through which intricate images may be represented in flooring and other surfaces using colored marble chips and a wet binding similar to concrete. Perhaps one of the best representations of terrazzo can be found throughout the corridors and in the rotunda of our Texas State Capitol. These historic floors were created by employing colored stones from over 20 separate, small quarries, each of which is located in Texas.

Many of these small artisan quarries have been mined for over 75 years, and each in its entirety does not disturb over 20 acres. They are often connected with one of the only reliable sources of livestock water on the larger premises and have typically been constructed to have no stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity.

Current law stipulates that certain aggregate production operations (APO) in the state must adhere to regulations set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). While there are exemptions in place for some quarries from APO regulations, there is currently no consideration given to a small-microbusiness status of their operator. This means that these artisanal quarries are subject to expensive continual engineering studies, monitoring, and permitting. These artisanal quarries require no air or water quality permits of the types enumerated in the APO regulations, as processing occurs off-property, rendering their inclusion in the inspection program unnecessary.

H.B. 2582 seeks to protect these small artisan decorative marble and granite quarries by adding them to the list of quarries exempted from certain aggregate production operation regulations.

H.B. 2582 amends current law relating to an exemption for certain quarries from regulation as aggregate production operations.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 28A.001(1), Water Code, to provide that, for purposes of this chapter (Registration and Inspection of Certain Aggregate Production Operations), the term "aggregate production operation" does not include certain sites, including a site at which the materials being removed or extracted from the earth are specialty or terrazzo-type stone removed or extracted exclusively for decorative or artistic uses and the portion of the specialty or terrazzo-type stone horizon that is exposed for current production for commercial sale in the site does not exceed five acres.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2017.