

SUBJECT: Requiring distribution of funds from a retired program

COMMITTEE: Environmental Regulation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Landgraf, Guerra, K. Bell, Kuempel, J. Lopez, Meza
0 nays
3 absent — Dean, Morales Shaw, Reynolds

WITNESSES: For — Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Stacy Suits, Travis County (*Registered, but did not testify*: Christine Wright, City of San Antonio; Paul Sugg, Harris County Commissioners Court; Jennifer Emerson, Port Houston; Jose Medina, Public Citizen; Shea Pearson, Texas Chemical Council; Cicely Kay, Travis County Commissioners Court)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Carolyn Lux)

On — Chris Klaus, North Central Texas Council of Governments (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Serrins, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that remaining money from the low-income vehicle repair assistance, retrofit, and accelerated vehicle retirement program should be returned to counties and used for certain authorized projects.

DIGEST: CSHB 1351 would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to distribute to applicable counties all available money collected that was designated for the low-income vehicle repair assistance, retrofit, and accelerated vehicle retirement program before September 1, 2023 and appropriated by the Legislature for distribution. TCEQ would be required to distribute the money by January 1, 2024 in reasonable proportion to the amount of fees collected in each county.

A county could use the money received only to fund certain authorized programs. These provisions would apply only to a county that participated

in and contributed to the program

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would expire September 1, 2027.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative fiscal impact of \$176,200,000 to Clean Air Account 151 for fiscal 2024-25.