

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R13684 E

H.B. 2403
By: Lewis, Ron (Brown)
Natural Resources
5/8/2001
Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

The United States Department of Energy recently published new energy efficiency standards for clotheswashing machines (machines). These federal standards, however, do not address water efficiency. In Texas, water conservation has emerged as an important issue and machines that use water inefficiently contribute to the problem. H.B. 2403 requires the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) to report to the legislature on the water consumption factor of all clotheswashing machines that were imported into this state during the preceding calendar year.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission in SECTION 1 (Section 372.004, Health and Safety Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 372, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 372.004, as follows:

Sec. 372.004. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE. Defines "water consumption factor." Provides that this section does not apply to a clothes-washing machine with a capacity of more than 3.5 cubic feet or less than 1.6 cubic feet. Requires the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (commission), beginning in February 2003, to report to the legislature in January of each year on certain issues. Requires the commission by rule to require appropriate industry trade associations or other entities to provide the information described by Subsection (c) to the commission by January 2003, and each January thereafter.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2001.