

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

H.B. 2403  
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Natural Resources  
5/10/2001  
Committee Report (Amended)

### **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 clothes-washing 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) to report to the legislature not later than February 28 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 this section to the commission not later than January 31 of each year.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2001. Requires the commission to submit to the legislature the initial report required by Section 372.004(c), Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, in February 2003. Requires appropriate trade associations or other entities to begin providing information to the commission as required by Section 372.004(d), Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, in January 2003.