

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R5924 SMH-D

S.B. 1331
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Natural Resources
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Recently, the United States Department of Energy published new energy efficiency standards for clothes-washing machines (machines). These federal standards, however, do not address water efficiency. In Texas, water conservation and machines that use water efficiently are issues of increasing importance. As proposed, S.B. 1331 prohibits a person from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or importing a machine for use in this state unless the machine meets certain water and energy saving performance standards.

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 372.001, Health and Safety Code, to define "modified energy factor" and "water consumption factor."

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 372, Health and Safety Code, by adding Section 372.0015, as follows:

Sec. 372.0015. EXEMPTION. Provides that this chapter 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.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 372.002, Health and Safety Code, to prohibit a person from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or importing into this state a clothes-washing machine for use in this state unless the machine meets the water and energy saving performance standards provided by Subsection (c) and the machine is listed by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (commission) under this Subsection (d).

(c) Sets forth the specific water and energy saving performance standards for washing machines under this section.

(d) Requires the commission to make and maintain a current list of clothes-washing machines that are certified to the commission by the manufacturer or importer to meet the water and energy saving performance standards established by Subsection (d). Makes conforming changes.

(f) Requires the commission, to the extent appropriate and practical, to employ the standards established by the United States Department of Energy.

SECTION 4. Amends Sections 372.003(c) and (e), Health and Safety Code, to require the commission by rule to prohibit the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or importation into this state of a new commercial or residential clothes-washing machine unless the clothes-washing machine is labeled in

accordance with commission rules with a statement that describes the device's water and energy use characteristics, including the water consumption factor and modified energy factor. Requires the commission by rule to prohibit the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or importation into this state of a new commercial or residential dish-washing machine or lawn sprinkler unless the dish-washing machine or lawn sprinkler is labeled in accordance with commission rules with a statement that describes the device's water use characteristics. Deletes existing text relating to dish-washing machines, lawn sprinklers, and clothes-washing machines.

SECTION 5. Effective date: September 1, 2001.