

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 1331
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Natural Resources
4/18/2001
Committee Report (Substituted)

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. C.S.S.B. 1331 requires the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to report to the legislature certain information relating to the water consumption of clothes-washing machines.

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. (a) Defines "water consumption factor."

(b) 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.

(c) Requires the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (commission), beginning in February 2003, to report certain information to the legislature in February of each year.

(d) 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.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

Amends As Filed S.B. 1331 as follows:

SECTION 1. Removes proposed text pertaining to the definition of "modified energy factor" and to the prohibition relating to certain clothes-washing machines. Adds proposed text pertaining to a report to the legislature on certain clothes-washing machines.

Removes proposed SECTIONS 2 - 4.

SECTION 2. Redesignates SECTION 5 as SECTION 2.