

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R8601 MTB-D

H.B. 2444
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Natural Resources
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Current law requires the Texas Railroad Commission to follow purchasing guidelines that in some cases may be burdensome or unnecessary for particular purchases. For example, the commission is required to use the Texas Building and Procurement Commission's Master Bidder's List for its well plugging program, which involves sending bid notices to over 400 vendors, although only 50 vendors are certified to perform those services. H.B. 2444 gives the Texas Railroad Commission additional flexibility with respect to the procedures it must follow for certain purchases.

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 Subchapter B, Chapter 81, Natural Resources Code, by adding Section 81.021, as follows:

Sec. 81.021. DELEGATED PURCHASES. Provides that the Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) is delegated the authority to purchase goods and services under Section 2155.132(a), Government Code, if the purchase does not exceed \$300,000.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter C, Chapter 81, Natural Resources Code, by adding Section 81.057, as follows:

Sec. 81.057. EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN PURCHASING RULES. Provides that RRC is not required to follow any purchasing procedures prescribed by or under the following laws when RRC makes a purchase in connection with the remediation of surface locations or well plugging: Subchapter E, Chapter 2155, Government Code; Section 2161.003 or 2161.004, Government Code; Subchapters D and F, Chapter 2161, Government Code; and Subchapters B and C, Chapter 2177, Government Code.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 2158.004, Government Code, by adding Subsection (e) to provide that except for the purchase or lease of a motor vehicle for use in a nonattainment area designated under Section 107(d) of the federal Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. Section 7407), as amended, Subsection (a) does not apply to a purchase or lease by RRC.

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2003.