SB 531 (2nd reading) Birdwell (Lozano), et al. (CSSB 531 by E. Thompson)

SUBJECT: Extending collection of Texas Emissions Reduction Plan fees

COMMITTEE: Environmental Regulation — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — E. Thompson, Blanco, Kacal, Kuempel, Reynolds, J. Turner,

Zwiener

0 nays

2 absent — Lozano, Morrison

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 10 — 30-0

WITNESSES: No public hearing

BACKGROUND: Interested parties have noted that certain fees that fund the Texas

Emissions Reduction Plan, which provides grants to reduce air emissions

in regions of the state that do not comply with certain air quality standards, are set to expire August 31, 2019. Some have suggested extending these fees until all regions of the state reach compliance with

federal air quality standards.

DIGEST: CSSB 531 would extend the collection of certain fees and surcharges that

fund the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan and the remittance of certain fees to the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Fund from their current expiration date of August 31, 2019, until the last day of the state fiscal biennium in which all regions of the state reach attainment with federal

ambient air quality standards.

The bill would apply to certain:

- surcharges imposed on the sale, lease, rental, storage, use, or other consumption of new or used off-road, heavy-duty diesel equipment;
- surcharges imposed on the sale, lease, or use of on-road diesel motor vehicles over 14,000 pounds;

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- title application fees collected in areas that do not meet ambient air quality standards;
- registration fees for truck-tractors or commercial vehicles; and
- commercial motor vehicle inspection fees.

The bill would take effect August 30, 2019.