

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1338
By: Patterson
Natural Resources
3-21-97
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, the Open Beaches Act prohibits a non-pervious surface within 200 feet of the mean vegetation line inland along the coast. This has slowed development in Galveston and Brazoria counties. This bill will authorize concrete to be poured within 200 feet of the mean vegetation line, provided the concrete is reinforced by fiber fill and not larger than four feet by four feet.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1338 prohibits the commissioner of the General Land Office from prohibiting a local government from authorizing certain construction within 200 feet landward of the natural vegetation line in certain coastal counties.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 61.011, Natural Resources Code, by adding Subsection (f), to prohibit the commissioner of the General Land Office, by rule, from prohibiting a local government from issuing a permit or certificate authorizing the construction, within 200 feet landward of the line of vegetation, of a concrete slab that is reinforced only by fiber fill and that is not larger than four feet by four feet. Provides that this subsection applied only in a county that is adjacent to a county with a population of over 2.5 million and that is contiguous to the Gulf of Mexico.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.