

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 508
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State Affairs
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DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, Texas does a tremendous amount of businesses in the gas, gas product, and gas services fields. As proposed, S.B. 508 establishes efforts in the Utilities Code to enhance workforce diversity in the gas utility companies and to increase opportunities for small and historically underutilized businesses to participate in gas-related industry.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Railroad Commission of Texas in SECTION 2 of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Title 3A, Utilities Code, by adding Chapter 106, as follows:

CHAPTER 106. WORKFORCE DIVERSITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CERTAIN BUSINESSES

Sec. 106.001. DEFINITIONS. Defines “small business” and “historically underutilized businesses.”

Sec. 106.002. PLAN TO ENHANCE WORKFORCE DIVERSITY AND INCREASE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES. (a) Requires each gas utility annually to submit to the Railroad Commission of Texas (railroad commission) a five-year plan to accomplish certain purposes.

(b) Sets forth requirements for the plan.

Sec. 106.003. REPORTING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL AND HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESSES. (a) Requires each gas utility annually to submit a report to the railroad commission summarizing the utility’s efforts to enhance the diversity of its workforce and increase business opportunities for small and historically underutilized businesses.

(b) Sets forth requirements for the report.

(c) Authorizes the report to be included as part of any other annual report the gas utility is required to submit to the railroad commission.

SECTION 2. Requires the railroad commission by rule to require each gas utility to submit to the commission the plan required by Section 106.002, Utilities Code, as added by this Act, as soon as the commission determines is practicable but not later than September 1, 2004.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2003.