



SENATOR JOSÉ MENÉNDEZ DISTRICT 26

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Senator José Menéndez Files 10 Bills Aimed at Protecting the Environment

San Antonio, Texas – Continuing his commitment to improving the quality of the state’s environment for the health and safety of all Texans, Senator José Menéndez filed 10 bills to provide protections against numerous environmental challenges.

These measures help energy consumers and homeowners with advanced technology to improve conservation. The bills include the following solutions:

- Help keep public school buildings safe and natural resources protected.
- Tap into new economic development niches in the energy sector and bring those technologies to the average homeowner; and
- Establish statewide approaches and coordination to adapt to emerging climate challenges.

“As stewards of our state, we must all play a part in keeping our land, water, and air safe and healthy,” Sen. Menéndez said. “This requires clear coordination across state agencies, stakeholders, and the public.”

“The state’s growth, extreme weather events, the increase of days at or above 100 degrees, and water scarcity will continue impacting everyday life across the state,” Sen. Menéndez added. “Keeping the public informed and engaged in this process will be key to successful outcomes.”

The package of 10 environmental bills include the following:

- **SB 2061** Would prohibit the application of glyphosate or neonicotinoid pesticide at any public school building.

(more)

- **SB 2062** Would direct the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to create a website that gives the public easy access to water testing data to determine the safety of freshwater sites across the state.
- **SB 2063** Would allow new state buildings to use other cost-effective Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) techniques to comply with a 2011 law requiring new state buildings to use rainwater harvesting where cost effective.
- **SB 2064** Would require leaseholders to develop plans to reduce methane and direct the University of Texas at Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology to study the best practices for reducing methane pollution and provide recommendations to the Legislature.
- **SB 2065** Would require TCEQ to close a loophole which allows polluters who violate their air permits to escape penalties for air emissions events.
- **SB 2066** Would build on existing state policy that supports personal property rights and the ability of a person to generate their own electricity on their own property.
- **SB 2067** Would require the State Water Plan to include an assessment of the best available science related to trends affecting future water availability, including technologies for water conservation, purification, and reuse.
- **SB 2068** Would direct the State Energy Conservation Office to adopt standards for the construction of new buildings to be “solar ready.”
- **SB 2069** Would direct state agencies to adopt plans that would identify, minimize, and adequately prepare for the effects of a changing climate based upon prescribed scientific data.
- **SB 2070** Would prohibit the TCEQ from issuing a permit, registration, or other authorization for land application of grease trap waste or grit trap waste.

“I filed these bills because we all want what is best for the state of Texas and for every one of our 30 million Texans,” Menéndez said. “I work for the people, and cannot allow environmental degradation be a threat to ourselves or future generations.”

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