



PRESS RELEASE

Senator Craig Estes
Texas State Senate District 30

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Legislation Aimed at Reducing Emissions and Fuel Costs Passes Through Committee

AUSTIN – Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development passed Senate Bill 26 authored by Chairman Craig Estes (R-Wichita Falls) in a vote of 6-2.

The bill is intended to renew the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) in order to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) tightened ozone standards. The legislation also provides state agencies, local governments and school districts the opportunity to reduce fuel costs in tandem with reducing mobile emissions.

"Senate Bill 26 provides our agencies the tools necessary to meet the increased demands of the EPA," stated Sen. Craig Estes. "These renewed programs will utilize new technology as well the discretion of the our own experts at TCEQ to determine the best use of our resources."

The main provisions of Senate Bill 26 are outlined below:

- Extends TERP until the end of the biennium, allowing Texas to attain the national ambient air quality standards for ground-level ozone.
- Instructs the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to streamline grant application requirements.
- Renews the Light Duty Vehicles Incentive Program and adds hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to the fleet.
- Authorizes the New Technology Implementation Grant Program to fund projects designed to reduce oilfield emissions.
- Provides the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) discretion to spend funds efficiently in order to reduce emissions.
- Enables school districts participating in the Clean School Bus Program to replace old busses with new ones.
- Allows private alternative fueling stations to be awarded grants under the Alternative

Fueling Facilities Program after grants have been awarded to public stations.

Senate Bill 26, one of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick's top legislative priorities, is expected to go to the floor of the Texas Senate in the weeks ahead.

Estes serves nearly 820,000 constituents across Senate District 30 which includes all of Archer, Clay, Cooke, Erath, Grayson, Jack, Montague, Palo Pinto, Parker, Wichita, Wise, and Young counties and parts of Collin and Denton counties.

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