

CHAPTER 715

H.B. No. 1346

An Act relating to confiscation of certain oil and gas production-related equipment to cover costs of well plugging and replugging.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 89, Natural Resources Code, is amended by adding Section 89.085 to read as follows:

*Sec. 89.085. CONFISCATION OF EQUIPMENT TO COVER PLUGGING COSTS. (a) If a person acting as agent for the commission plugs or replugs a well, the commission may authorize the agent to confiscate any production-related equipment at the abandoned well site (abandoned by the operator of the well as defined in this chapter) for the purpose of wholly or partially compensating the agent for plugging or replugging the well.*

*(b) The commission shall adopt reasonable rules (including a provision for a public hearing) for determining whether production-related equipment at a well site is abandoned and for establishing the value of production-related equipment for purposes of compensating the agent.*

**SECTION 2.** The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 17, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 26, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 14, 1985

Effective: August 26, 1985