

Information Paper for the Texas DCRP Sunset Coalition of the Southwest Dry Cleaning Association

Executive Summary:

In 2003 during the 78th Legislative Session the DCRP was created to assist with the clean-up and mitigation of the use of perchloroethylene or also known as PERC. The professional garment care and cleaning operators supported the creation of this program to assist them with cleaning up sites and property that had or currently using PERC.

The DCRP creates the Dry Cleaning Facility Release Fund (the Fund). The Fund is used to process registrations and to conduct corrective actions at the dry-cleaning sites. Chapter 374.253 of the Health and Safety Code would be amended several times over the next ten years to provide more clarity and specifics to the administering of the program. More specifically, in 2003 chapter 374 would be amended to establish an expiration date of the program. That date was set for Sept. 1, 2021.

During the 85th Legislative Session, the Texas Legislature filed HB1515, relating to the expiration of the Dry Cleaning Environmental Response Program. The proposed legislation passed the House of Representatives but was not voted on in the Senate. It was proposed to extend the expiration date to Sept. 1, 2050.

Purpose:

The purpose of this information paper is to initially define the strategy and plans to effectively amend the current law during the 87th Legislature to be extended for the next 30 years, giving Chapter 374.253 an expiration date of September, 1 2050.

Significant Dates:

Some of the dates are definite however the Legislative Calendar of the 87th Legislature will not be published until the rules are passed in both the Senate and House after they convene on Jan. 12, 2021.

Jul. 14, 2020 – Rescheduled Primary Elections due to COVID-19 for both Democrat and Republican parties.

Nov. 3, 2020 – General Election day.

Nov. 9, 2020 – First day that bills can be filed by an incumbent legislature for the 87th Legislative session.

Jan. 12, 2021 – First day of 87th Legislative Session.

Mar. 13, 2021- First day that filed legislation can be consider on the Texas House floor for a 2nd Reading.

Late April 2021 – Last day for bills to be reported out of committees in the House or Senate.

Mid to Late May 2021- Last day for bills to be considered on 2nd and 3rd Readings on Senate and House floors.

May 31, 2021 – Last day of the 87th Legislative Session, Sine Die.

Jun 20, 2021 – Last day a bill can be vetoed by the Governor.

Strategic Objective:

The desired outcome of this strategy will be the passage of legislation that will extend the DCRP Fund program to Sept. 1, 2050.

Tasks:

1. Gather information and support from key leaders in the legislative process. This includes staff and current members of the both legislative chambers as well as communicating and advocating for the extension of the DCRP with the Governor's offices and TCEQ. This is already underway and will continue throughout the summer months up to the beginning of September.
2. Communicate and present strategy to Texas SDA Sunset Coalition leadership during the July 2020 business meeting. Be available to assist to communicate this legislative strategy to a broader group of members and allied industry vendors supportive of the legislative goals of the Texas SDA Sunset Coalition.
3. Develop talking points that support the advocacy of extending the date of the DCRP. Targeted due date is July 15th.
4. Request drafting of proposed legislation through a member of the legislature to the Legislative Council. Targeted due date is August 15th.
5. Beginning in July identify bill sponsors both the House and Senate.
6. Monitor and analyze the rescheduled primary and fall general elections to determine how it may or may not impact leadership and passage of proposed legislation to extend the DCRP.
7. Continue relationships with House and Senate Committee staff, Speaker, LtGov, Gov and TECQ offices that monitor or develop policy in relation to the DCRP.
8. Establish relationships with current House and Senate Committees that have been the committees to hear previous DCRP legislation. Particularly, the House Environmental Regulation Committee and the Senate Natural

Resources & Economic Development Committee. These will be referred as Key Committees.

9. After General Election, begin a series of visiting offices of House of Senate membership who have Texas SDA operators in their legislative districts. Develop a list of House and Senate members who are stated in their support of the proposed legislation.
10. Once committee assignments are made in both the Senate and House, schedule and execute visits to Key Committees. Develop or maintain relationship with House Calendars committee chair. This committee will be added to the Key Committee list.
11. File proposed bill to obtain Texas SDA Sunset Coalition's legislative goals at time that is most strategic and impactful.
12. Monitor bill progress to assigned committees, once assigned to substantive committees in the House continue scheduling visits with committee staff to advocate for an early hearing and begin visiting with legislative members assigned to key committees.
13. Identify Texas SDA Sunset Coalition members who will be willing to make personal visits and testify in committee when needed to key legislative and governmental leaders to advocate for the passage of the proposed legislations.
14. Work and coordinate with House and Committee staff to developed Bill Analysis and other required documents for committee hearings and continual legislative action.
15. Organize a gathering in Austin of Texas SDA leadership and members to meet with key legislative leaders in a social meet and greet setting.
16. Continue to advocate proposed legislation through both chambers once they are voted out of committee with the goal to get it on the calendar for consideration early in the legislative schedule. There will be particular attention to communicating with the House Calendars committee chairman and staff, the Speaker's and LtGov's Chief of Staff offices for this outcome.
17. Communicate with Governor's office to prepare for engrossed legislation arrival and advocate for it's approval and signature by the Governor.

Summary:

Each of the tasks in this information paper can be conducted individually or concurrently, however some may require to be conducted subsequently. This initial strategy will be updated as this change with the objectives and tasks specified above.