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H.B. 121
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Stewart

Rocky Hernandez, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Provides that a renewable natural gas producer, without on-site capability to inject into a natural gas transmission or distribution pipeline, is not considered a public utility.
- Defines “renewable natural gas” as biologically derived methane gas that has been processed, cleaned, or conditioned to remove or reduce nonmethane elements to meet pipeline-quality fuel standards.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Renewable natural gas producers

The bill provides that any producer of renewable natural gas that does not have on-site capability to inject the gas into a natural gas transmission or distribution pipeline is not to be considered a public utility. Exclusion of renewable natural gas producers as public utilities may be construed to subject them to county and township zoning authority and municipal planning authority and affect how they are treated for purposes of state and local public utility taxation.¹

Under the bill, “renewable natural gas” means biologically derived methane gas that has been processed, cleaned, or conditioned to remove or reduce nonmethane elements to meet pipeline-quality fuel standards. Current law defines “biologically derived methane gas” as gas from the anaerobic digestion of organic materials, including animal waste and agricultural crops and residues.²

¹ R.C. Chapters 319, 323, and 5727; R.C. 303.211, 519.211, and 713.02, not in the bill. The effect of the exclusion could be made clearer with cross references to the specific areas of law to which the exclusion is to apply.

² R.C. 4929.181; R.C. 5713.30(H), not in the bill.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	02-24-25
