

AN ACT

relating to studies by the Texas Water Development Board of water needs and availability in this state.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "board" means the Texas Water Development Board.

(b) The board shall:

(1) conduct a study of water needs and availability in this state; and

(2) use the results of the study to produce a comprehensive water resources map.

(c) The study must consider:

(1) opportunities for, obstacles to, and costs associated with the development of new sources of water, including but not limited to the diversion of water from contiguous states, the use of flood control diversion channels, and the reuse of water associated with oil and gas operations;

(2) potential locations of facilities for the desalination of marine seawater and brackish groundwater;

(3) the allocation of costs associated with the transportation of desalinated marine seawater and brackish groundwater from the place of production to end users;

(4) the potential for the use of public-private partnerships for water development projects in this state; and

1 (5) methods to ensure that stakeholders from all water
2 user groups are included in the development of plans for the use of
3 water in this state.

4 (d) In conducting the study, the board may consult with the
5 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

6 (e) Not later than December 1, 2018, the board shall submit
7 to each standing committee of the legislature having primary
8 jurisdiction over water development:

9 (1) a report of the findings of the study conducted
10 under this section; and

11 (2) the map developed by the board under Subsection
12 (b) of this section.

13 SECTION 2. Section 11.155, Water Code, is amended to read as
14 follows:

15 Sec. 11.155. AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY REPORTS.

16 (a) The board shall make studies, investigations, and surveys of
17 the aquifers in the state as it considers necessary to determine the
18 occurrence, quantity, quality, and availability of aquifers in
19 which water may be stored and subsequently retrieved for beneficial
20 use.

21 (b) The board, working with appropriate interested persons,
22 including groundwater conservation districts, regional water
23 planning groups, and potential sponsors of aquifer storage and
24 recovery projects, shall:

25 (1) conduct studies of aquifer storage and recovery
26 projects identified in the state water plan or by interested
27 persons; and

1 (2) report the results of each study conducted under
2 Subdivision (1) to regional water planning groups and interested
3 persons.

4 (c) This subsection expires January 1, 2019. The board
5 shall:

6 (1) conduct a statewide survey of the most favorable
7 areas for aquifer storage and recovery;

8 (2) prepare a report that includes an overview of the
9 survey conducted under Subdivision (1); and

10 (3) not later than December 15, 2018, submit the
11 report described by Subdivision (2) to the governor, lieutenant
12 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. [The board
13 shall undertake the studies, investigations, and surveys in the
14 following order of priority:

15 ~~[(1) areas designated by the commission as "priority~~
16 ~~groundwater management areas" under Section 35.008; and~~

17 ~~[(2) other areas of the state in a priority to be~~
18 ~~determined by the board's ranking of where the greatest need~~
19 ~~exists.]~~

20 SECTION 3. The Texas Water Development Board is required to
21 implement Sections 11.155(b) and (c), Water Code, as added by this
22 Act, only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for
23 that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money
24 specifically for that purpose, the board may, but is not required
25 to, implement Sections 11.155(b) and (c), Water Code, as added by
26 this Act, using other appropriations available for the purpose.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1525 passed the Senate on April 19, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 27, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1525 passed the House, with amendment, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 2, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor