

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
79th REGULAR SESSION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

H.B. ____/S.B. ____ (Amends Sec. 15.974 (b), Water Code) giving the TWDB maximum flexibility in determining which needs to address with WIF appropriations, if given funding by the Legislature.

H.B. ____/S.B. ____ (Amends Sec. 16.093, Water Code) clarifying the TWDB's authority to receive federal grant, loan and other assistance from any federal agency for water supply projects, treatment works, or structural or nonstructural flood control measures. Also deletes the requirement for a grant processing fee.

H.B. ____/S.B. ____ (Sec. 421.021(a), Government Code) adding TWDB to Critical Infrastructure Protection Council, which TWDB's StratMap program frequently consults and provides data and information to during emergency events.

H.B. 356 by Callegari/S.B. ____ (Sec. 6.110, Water Code) repealing the requirement for the executive administrator of the TWDB to develop and prepare a plan due to the Board, the Legislature and the LBB detailing the capital spending plans for several agency-administered programs.

H.B. ____/S.B. ____ (Sec. 49.181, Water Code) Clarifies that TCEQ does not have to make project feasibility determinations on refinancing bonds issued by water districts and sold to TWDB.

Bill Draft Not Available H.B. ____/S.B. ____ (Amends Ch. 36, Water Code) Groundwater legislation – require GCDs to report all hydrological data collected to TWDB; fund hydrologists in every GMA; fund enhanced basic groundwater data collection activities directly by TWDB; require GCDs to develop a management goal addressing the GCD's desired future conditions for the aquifer for inclusion in the GCD's management plan; require GCDs and RWPGs in a common GMA to have compatible groundwater management goals; require GCD management plans to include conservation, recharge enhancement, rainwater harvesting or brush control where appropriate and cost-effective; require GCDs within a GMA to jointly decide how to define groundwater availability using GAMs for reporting in their management plans and in the regional water planning process; require TWDB to provide technical assistance for all GCDs within a GMA; and revise the review process of groundwater management plans from an administrative completeness review to a more qualitative review.

H.B. ____/S.B. ____ (Amends 16.053 (h), Water Code) authorizes the TWDB Executive Administrator to approve a request from a Regional Water Planning Group to expedite an amendment to a regional water plan in limited circumstances.

SIGNIFICANT BILLS NOT INITIATED BY AGENCY

Water Conservation Implementation Task Force

Bill Draft Not Available H.B. ____/S.B. ____ Amends the public awareness program, explicitly states conservation best management practices (BMPs) are voluntary; requires the Board to create regional conservation assistance via a local coordinator; creates a preference for TWRFA water supply funds submitted by entities that have undertaken conservation measures; creates a 17-member Water Conservation Advisory Council made up of state, federal and local governments, stakeholders, and providers. Establishes duties of council.

H.B. ____/S.B. ____ Provides TCEQ the authority to exempt from surface water rights cancellation for non-use of water if the non-use was from conservation measures.

H.B. ____/S.B. ____ Declares legislative findings for water conservation and energy savings. Requires TCEQ to establish rules and sets specifications for toilet testing for performance and conservation. Allows independent testing agencies to certify list of plumbing fixtures.

H.B. ____/S.B. ____ Requires TWDB Executive Administrator to study the impact of “take or pay” contracts on efforts to achieve water conservation. Requires a report to legislature by 01/01/07.