

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 2095

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to water research conducted by The University of Texas  
Bureau of Economic Geology.

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

SECTION 1. Title 2, Water Code, is amended by adding  
Subtitle G to read as follows:

SUBTITLE G. WATER RESEARCH

CHAPTER 39. WATER RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY BUREAU OF ECONOMIC GEOLOGY

Sec. 39.0100. SHORT TITLE. This chapter may be cited as the  
Texas Water Information Network Exchange program.

Sec. 39.0101. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Texas Water Development Board.

(2) "Bureau" means The University of Texas Bureau of  
Economic Geology.

Sec. 39.0102. DATA AND MODELING. (a) The bureau shall, in  
coordination with the board, make studies of water, including  
surface water, groundwater, soil moisture, and atmospheric  
moisture, to improve on data gaps and on the processing, analysis,  
modeling, and integration of water-related data.

(b) The bureau shall, in coordination with the board, work  
to enhance, advance, or integrate models characterizing the water  
resources of the state including:

(1) improving the techniques for multiscale modeling;

(2) expanding the use of artificial intelligence and

1 machine learning techniques;

2 (3) integrating multiscale modeling and machine  
3 learning;

4 (4) creating interoperable, modular, or coupled  
5 modeling strategies;

6 (5) improving access to and methods for achieving  
7 high-performance computing; and

8 (6) improving access to open-source,  
9 community-supported modeling.

10 Sec. 39.0103. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION. (a) In  
11 fulfilling the duties described by Section 39.0102, the bureau  
12 shall cooperate with:

13 (1) the board;

14 (2) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

15 (3) the Edwards Aquifer Authority;

16 (4) river authorities;

17 (5) groundwater conservation districts;

18 (6) The University of Texas;

19 (7) Texas A&M University;

20 (8) Texas Tech University; and

21 (9) any other state agency or university with access  
22 to data related to surface water, groundwater, soil moisture, or  
23 atmospheric moisture.

24 (b) The bureau may coordinate with federal agencies or  
25 private entities as appropriate to fulfill the requirements of this  
26 chapter.

27 (c) The agencies, political subdivisions, and universities

1 described by Subsection (a) shall provide, on request and to the  
2 extent available, data to the bureau as necessary to fulfill the  
3 requirements of this chapter.

4 (d) To the extent of any conflict or inconsistency, the  
5 provisions of Chapters 6 and 16 describing the powers, duties, and  
6 functions of the board prevail over this chapter.

7 (e) The bureau and the board shall enter into a memorandum  
8 of understanding to define their powers, duties, and functions  
9 related to this chapter.

10 Sec. 39.0104. RESULTS. The bureau shall cooperate with the  
11 board to ensure that the data and information compiled and produced  
12 under Section 39.0102 are made available in accordance with Section  
13 16.012(d).

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.