

By: Zwiener

H.B. No. 3953

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of a water conservation program by a county.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 562, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter C to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. WATER CONSERVATION

Sec. 562.051. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS. (a)

Definitions. In this section:

(1) "Agricultural operation" has the meaning assigned by Section 251.002, Agriculture Code.

(2) "Priority groundwater management area" has the meaning assigned by Section 35.002, Water Code.

(b) This section applies to a county that has territory within a priority groundwater management area.

(c) The commissioners court of a county by order may adopt a water conservation program. A water conservation program adopted under this section may establish for the unincorporated area of the county or areas within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a city only:

(1) rules for residential water use restrictions; and

(2) water conservation standards applicable to the residential development of a subdivision of a tract of land, the development of which begins after August 31, 2023.

1        (d) Water use restrictions established under Subsection  
2 (c)(1) may not apply to an agricultural operation.

3        (e) To the extent of a conflict between a county order  
4 adopted under this section and a municipal ordinance regulating the  
5 same conduct, the ordinance prevails.

6        SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.