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H.B. No. 3990

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a study of existing surface water and groundwater  
3 interaction data and analyses.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

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

7 (2) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on  
8 Environmental Quality.

9 SECTION 2. SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER DATA ANALYSIS.

10 (a) The board, in cooperation with the commission, shall conduct a  
11 study to:

12 (1) compile and review data and analyses from existing  
13 studies conducted on the interaction between surface water and  
14 groundwater in this state;

15 (2) identify areas of the state where there is a strong  
16 degree of interaction between surface water and groundwater;

17 (3) identify areas of the state where there is a lack  
18 of data regarding or there are inadequate models of the interaction  
19 between surface water and groundwater; and

20 (4) in areas with a strong degree of interaction  
21 between surface water and groundwater and where available data are  
22 lacking or models are inadequate, determine a method to prioritize:

23 (A) additional data collection, including  
24 streamflow gain-loss studies and long-term monitoring of

1 springflows; and

2 (B) updates of models and improvements to the  
3 modeling of the interaction between surface water and groundwater.

4 (b) The board and the commission may coordinate with  
5 groundwater conservation districts, river authorities,  
6 governmental entities, and institutions of higher education in  
7 compiling and reviewing existing data and analyses on the  
8 interaction between surface water and groundwater in this state.

9 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2024, the  
10 board and the commission shall deliver to the governor, the  
11 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
12 and each member of the legislature a report summarizing the  
13 findings and recommendations of the board and the commission based  
14 on the study conducted under Section 2 of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2025.

16 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
17 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
18 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
19 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
20 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.