

By: Kacal

H.B. No. 3990

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

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

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

SECTION 2. SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER DATA COLLECTION.

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

(1) collect data from existing studies conducted on the interaction between surface water and groundwater in this state;

(2) identify areas of the state where there is a lack of data or are inadequate models on the interaction between surface water and groundwater; and

(3) determine a method to prioritize the development of enhanced modeling techniques to collect more data in areas with a strong degree of surface water and groundwater interaction, including conducting streamflow gain-loss studies where adequate data is lacking and increasing long-term monitoring of springflows.

(b) The board and the commission may coordinate with groundwater conservation districts, groundwater management areas,

1 river authorities, governmental entities, and institutions of
2 higher education in collecting existing data and analyses on the
3 interaction between surface water and groundwater in this state.

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

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

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