By: Rogers

H.B. No. 4872

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 1 AN ACT 2 relating to the reporting and plugging of certain wells. 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS: 4 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Water Code, is amended 5 by adding Section 28.013 to read as follows: 6 Sec. 28.013. REPORTING AND PLUGGING OF CERTAIN WELLS; GRANT 7 PROGRAM. (a) The commission by rule shall develop: 8 (1) a process through which a landowner may report to 9 the commission the presence on the landowner's land of a well that: (A) was originally drilled or operated as an oil 10 or gas well under a permit issued by the Railroad Commission of 11 12 Texas and subsequently was conveyed to the landowner for use as a water well; and 13 14 (B) has not been plugged properly or otherwise poses a threat to groundwater or surface water; and 15 16 (2) a program to provide grants to landowners or governmental entities for the plugging of wells reported through 17 the process developed under Subdivision (1). 18 19 (b) Rules implementing the grant program described by Subsection (a)(2) must require that: 20 21 (1) the award of grants be based on an actual or probable threat to groundwater or surface water posed by a well 22 23 reported under Subsection (a)(1); and 24 (2) the plugging of the well be performed by:

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1	(A) a well plugger approved by the Railroad
2	<u>Commission of Texas; or</u>
3	(B) the Railroad Commission of Texas.
4	SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.