

By: Perry

S.B. No. 1746

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to an exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit
3 from a groundwater conservation district for certain temporary
4 water wells.

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

6 SECTION 1. Sections 36.117(b) and (d), Water Code, are
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (b) Except as provided by this section, a district shall
9 provide an exemption from the district requirement to obtain a
10 permit for:

11 (1) drilling or operating a well used solely for
12 domestic use or for providing water for livestock or poultry if the
13 well is:

14 (A) located or to be located on a tract of land
15 larger than 10 acres; and

16 (B) drilled, completed, or equipped so that it is
17 incapable of producing more than 25,000 gallons of groundwater a
18 day;

19 (2) drilling a water well used solely to supply water
20 for a rig that is actively engaged in drilling or exploration
21 operations for an oil or gas well permitted by the Railroad
22 Commission of Texas provided that the person holding the permit is
23 responsible for drilling and operating the water well and the water
24 well is located on the same lease or field associated with the

1 drilling rig; ~~or~~]

2 (3) drilling a water well authorized under a permit
3 issued by the Railroad Commission of Texas under Chapter 134,
4 Natural Resources Code, or for production from the well to the
5 extent the withdrawals are required for mining activities
6 regardless of any subsequent use of the water; or

7 (4) drilling a water well for temporary use to supply
8 water for a rig that is actively engaged in drilling a groundwater
9 production well permitted by the district.

10 (d) A district may cancel a previously granted exemption and
11 may require an operating permit for or restrict production from a
12 well and assess any appropriate fees if:

13 (1) the groundwater withdrawals that were exempted
14 under Subsection (b)(1) are no longer used solely for domestic use
15 or to provide water for livestock or poultry;

16 (2) the groundwater withdrawals that were exempted
17 under Subsection (b)(2) are no longer used solely to supply water
18 for a rig that is actively engaged in drilling or exploration
19 operations for an oil or gas well permitted by the Railroad
20 Commission of Texas; ~~or~~]

21 (3) the groundwater withdrawals that were exempted
22 under Subsection (b)(3) are no longer necessary for mining
23 activities or are greater than the amount necessary for mining
24 activities specified in the permit issued by the Railroad
25 Commission of Texas under Chapter 134, Natural Resources Code; or

26 (4) the groundwater withdrawals that were exempted
27 under Subsection (b)(4) are no longer used solely to supply water

1 for a rig that is actively engaged in drilling a groundwater
2 production well permitted by the district.

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