

By: Eckhardt, Blanco, Johnson

S.B. No. 2362

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to establishing an advisory board to study surface water
3 and groundwater interaction.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "advisory board" means
6 the Surface Water and Groundwater Interaction Advisory Board.

7 SECTION 2. SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER INTERACTION
8 ADVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHED. (a) The Surface Water and Groundwater
9 Interaction Advisory Board is established and consists of 12
10 persons as follows:

11 (1) the executive administrator of the Texas Water
12 Development Board;

13 (2) one person to represent the interests of the Texas
14 Commission on Environmental Quality, recommended by the Texas
15 Commission on Environmental Quality and appointed jointly by the
16 chairs of the house natural resources committee and the senate
17 water and rural affairs committee;

18 (3) two persons to represent the interests of river
19 authorities, recommended jointly by the Texas Commission on
20 Environmental Quality and the Texas Water Development Board and
21 appointed jointly by the chairs of the house natural resources
22 committee and the senate water and rural affairs committee;

23 (4) two persons to represent the interests of
24 groundwater conservation districts, recommended jointly by the

1 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Water
2 Development Board and appointed jointly by the chairs of the house
3 natural resources committee and the senate water and rural affairs
4 committee;

5 (5) two persons with academic or specialist knowledge
6 in the area of surface water and groundwater interaction, with one
7 appointed by the chair of the house natural resources committee and
8 another appointed by the chair of the senate water and rural affairs
9 committee;

10 (6) one person to represent environmental interests or
11 the interests relating to the interaction of surface water and
12 groundwater, recommended jointly by the Texas Commission on
13 Environmental Quality and the Texas Water Development Board and
14 appointed jointly by the chairs of the house natural resources
15 committee and the senate water and rural affairs committee;

16 (7) the chair of the house natural resources
17 committee;

18 (8) the chair of the senate water and rural affairs
19 committee; and

20 (9) one person from the office of the governor,
21 appointed by the governor.

22 (b) The executive administrator of the Texas Water
23 Development Board serves as the chair of the advisory board.

24 SECTION 3. PUBLIC MEETING. The advisory board shall hold at
25 least one public meeting in order to accept comments from the public
26 on matters studied by the advisory board.

27 SECTION 4. SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER INTERACTION STUDY.

1 (a) The advisory board shall study:

2 (1) the extent to which surface water and groundwater
3 interact in this state;

4 (2) challenges arising in this state from the
5 interaction of surface water and groundwater; and

6 (3) approaches to mitigating challenges arising in
7 this state from the interaction of surface water and groundwater.

8 (b) In conducting the study under this section, the advisory
9 board shall consult with:

10 (1) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

11 (2) groundwater conservation districts; and

12 (3) river authorities.

13 SECTION 5. STUDY REPORT; EXPIRATION OF ACT. (a) The
14 advisory board shall deliver to the governor, the lieutenant
15 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each
16 member of the legislature a report on the determinations of the
17 advisory board based on the study conducted under Section 4 of this
18 Act not later than December 1, 2024. The advisory board shall
19 deliver to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
20 the house of representatives, or a member of the legislature
21 related information on request.

22 (b) The advisory board is abolished and this Act expires
23 January 1, 2025.

24 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
25 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
26 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
27 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for

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1 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.