

1-1 By: Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Parker) H.B. No. 1238  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 28, 2025;  
1-3 April 29, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on  
1-4 Natural Resources; May 8, 2025, reported favorably by the  
1-5 following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 8, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

1-7	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8	Birdwell	X		
1-9	Zaffirini	X		
1-10	Alvarado	X		
1-11	Blanco	X		
1-12	Flores	X		
1-13	Hancock	X		
1-14	Hughes	X		
1-15	Parker	X		
1-16	Sparks	X		

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the inspection of the location of a proposed Class I  
1-20 injection well.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 27.016, Water Code, is amended to read as  
1-23 follows:

1-24 Sec. 27.016. INSPECTION OF WELL LOCATION. (a) On receiving  
1-25 an application for a permit, the executive director shall:

1-26 (1) have an inspection made of the location of the  
1-27 proposed disposal well to determine the local conditions and the  
1-28 probable effect of the well; and

1-29 (2) ~~shall~~ determine the requirements for the setting  
1-30 of casing, as provided in Sections 27.051, 27.055, and 27.056 ~~of~~  
1-31 ~~this code~~.

1-32 (b) For a proposed Class I injection well, the executive  
1-33 director may satisfy the requirements of Subsection (a) by  
1-34 accepting an inspection report prepared by an engineer or  
1-35 geoscientist licensed in this state. The report must:

1-36 (1) confirm that the engineer or geoscientist  
1-37 inspected the location of the proposed injection well to determine  
1-38 the local conditions and the probable effect of the well; and

1-39 (2) state the engineer's or geoscientist's  
1-40 determination regarding the requirements for the setting of casing  
1-41 as required by Subsection (a)(2).

1-42 (c) An engineer or geoscientist may conduct an inspection  
1-43 under Subsection (b)(1):

1-44 (1) in person at the location of the proposed  
1-45 injection well; or

1-46 (2) virtually through:

1-47 (A) satellite or other aerial imagery;

1-48 (B) mapping software; or

1-49 (C) other appropriate information sources.

1-50 (d) The executive director may require an engineer or  
1-51 geoscientist that submits a virtual inspection described by  
1-52 Subsection (c)(2) to conduct an additional in-person inspection if  
1-53 the initial visual inspection reveals an issue the executive  
1-54 director determines merits an in-person inspection.

1-55 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
1-56 to a permit application filed with the Texas Commission on  
1-57 Environmental Quality on or after the effective date of this Act. A  
1-58 permit application filed before the effective date of this Act is  
1-59 subject to the law in effect on the date the application is filed,  
1-60 and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

1-61 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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