

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 898
By: Averitt
Natural Resources
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Certain municipal utility districts (districts) are financially solvent entities and have outstanding long-term indebtedness that is BBB rated. S.B. 898 proposes to grant flexibility to certain districts that is already currently enjoyed by most municipalities across the state. S.B. 898 provides that certain municipal utility districts are not required to provide escrow funds to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to secure bond financing for certain projects. This bill does not waive the requirement for municipal utility districts to provide engineering plans for proposed projects to the TCEQ, nor does it impact the TCEQ's authority to review the technical merits of proposed projects.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 49.181(h), Water Code, to add Subsection (h) (5) which adds certain municipal utility districts to the list of entities not affected by Section 49.181.

SECTION 2. Excludes bonds for which applications have already been submitted to TCEQ from the provisions of this bill.

SECTION 3. Effective date.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.