

1-1 By: Luna (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.B. No. 1370
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 25, 2003;
1-3 April 28, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Administration; May 6, 2003, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 6, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the study and implementation of seawater desalination.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that:

1-11 (1) it is in the public interest to develop and
1-12 maintain a diversified portfolio of drought-proof water supply
1-13 alternatives to meet the water needs of the state;

1-14 (2) ongoing advances in water treatment technology and
1-15 the growing demand on water resources make seawater desalination a
1-16 more attractive drought-proof water supply option for the state;
1-17 and

1-18 (3) additional information is necessary to further
1-19 assess the implementation of and future opportunities for seawater
1-20 desalination in the state.

1-21 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 16, Water Code, is amended
1-22 by adding Section 16.060 to read as follows:

1-23 Sec. 16.060. DESALINATION STUDIES AND RESEARCH. (a) The
1-24 board shall undertake or participate in research, feasibility and
1-25 facility planning studies, investigations, and surveys as it
1-26 considers necessary to further the development of cost-effective
1-27 water supplies from seawater desalination in the state.

1-28 (b) The board shall prepare a biennial progress report on
1-29 the implementation of seawater desalination activities in the state
1-30 and shall submit it to the governor, lieutenant governor, and
1-31 speaker of the house of representatives not later than December 1 of
1-32 each even-numbered year. The report shall include:

1-33 (1) results of the board's studies and activities
1-34 relative to seawater desalination during the preceding biennium;

1-35 (2) identification and evaluation of research,
1-36 regulatory, technical, and financial impediments to the
1-37 implementation of seawater desalination projects;

1-38 (3) evaluation of the role the state should play in
1-39 furthering the development of large-scale seawater desalination
1-40 projects in the state; and

1-41 (4) the anticipated appropriation from general
1-42 revenues necessary to continue investigating water desalination
1-43 activities in the state during the next biennium.

1-44 (c) The board shall actively pursue federal sources of
1-45 funding for desalination projects in the state.

1-46 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-47 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-48 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-49 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-50 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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