

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 743

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the study and implementation of water desalination.

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

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS. The legislature finds that:

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

(2) on-going advances in water treatment technology and the growing demand on water resources make water desalination a more attractive drought-proof water supply option for this state; and

(3) additional information is necessary to further assess the implementation of and future opportunities for seawater desalination in this state.

SECTION 2. WATER DESALINATION: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, REPORT, AND FUNDING. (a) The Texas Water Development Board shall undertake and participate in research, feasibility, and facility planning studies, investigations, and surveys, as it considers necessary, to further the development of cost-effective water supplies from desalination in this state.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2004, the Texas Water Development Board shall prepare and submit a progress report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of

1 representatives on the implementation of water desalination  
2 activities in the state. The report shall include:

3 (1) the results of the board's studies and activities  
4 relating to water desalination during the preceding biennium;

5 (2) identification and evaluation of research,  
6 regulatory, technical, and financial impediments to the  
7 implementation of water desalination projects;

8 (3) evaluation of the role the state should play in  
9 furthering the development of large-scale seawater desalination  
10 projects in this state; and

11 (4) the anticipated appropriation from general  
12 revenues necessary to continue investigating water desalination  
13 activities in the state during the upcoming biennium.

14 (c) The Texas Water Development Board shall actively pursue  
15 federal sources of funding for desalination projects in this state.

16 SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
17 1, 2003.