

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 743
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 27, 2003; March 3, 2003,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources;
1-4 April 14, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; April 14, 2003,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 743 By: Lucio

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the study and implementation of seawater desalination.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that:

1-13 (1) it is in the public interest to develop and
1-14 maintain a diversified portfolio of drought-proof water supply
1-15 alternatives to meet the water needs of the state;

1-16 (2) ongoing advances in water treatment technology and
1-17 the growing demand on water resources make seawater desalination a
1-18 more attractive drought-proof water supply option for the state;
1-19 and

1-20 (3) additional information is necessary to further
1-21 assess the implementation of and future opportunities for seawater
1-22 desalination in the state.

1-23 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 16, Water Code, is amended
1-24 by adding Section 16.060 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 16.060. DESALINATION STUDIES AND RESEARCH. (a) The
1-26 board shall undertake or participate in research, feasibility and
1-27 facility planning studies, investigations, and surveys as it
1-28 considers necessary to further the development of cost-effective
1-29 water supplies from seawater desalination in the state.

1-30 (b) The board shall prepare a biennial progress report on
1-31 the implementation of seawater desalination activities in the state
1-32 and shall submit it to the governor, lieutenant governor, and
1-33 speaker of the house of representatives not later than December 1 of
1-34 each even-numbered year. The report shall include:

1-35 (1) results of the board's studies and activities
1-36 relative to seawater desalination during the preceding biennium;

1-37 (2) identification and evaluation of research,
1-38 regulatory, technical, and financial impediments to the
1-39 implementation of seawater desalination projects;

1-40 (3) evaluation of the role the state should play in
1-41 furthering the development of large-scale seawater desalination
1-42 projects in the state; and

1-43 (4) the anticipated appropriation from general
1-44 revenues necessary to continue investigating water desalination
1-45 activities in the state during the next biennium.

1-46 (c) The board shall actively pursue federal sources of
1-47 funding for desalination projects in the state.

1-48 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-49 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-50 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-51 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-52 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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