

By: Duncan

S.B. No. 1053

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certain water pollution and conservation programs
administered by the Texas Water Development Board.

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

SECTION 1. Section 15.602, Water Code, is amended by adding
Subdivision (5-a) to read as follows:

(5-a) "Eligible lending institution" means a
financial institution that makes commercial loans, is either a
depository of state funds or an institution of the Farm Credit
System headquartered in this state, agrees to participate in a
linked deposit program established under Section 15.611 and to
provide collateral equal to the amount of linked deposits placed
with it, and meets any other requirements established by board
rule.

SECTION 2. Section 15.603, Water Code, is amended by adding
Subsection (i) to read as follows:

(i) In addition to authorized purposes under Subsection
(a), the revolving fund is held by the board to provide linked
deposits to eligible financial institutions for loans to persons
for nonpoint source pollution control projects.

SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 15.604, Water Code, is
amended to read as follows:

(a) The board may use the revolving fund for financial
assistance only as provided by the federal act:

1 (1) to make loans, on the conditions that:

2 (A) those loans are made at or below market
3 interest rates, including interest-free loans, at terms not to
4 exceed 20 years;

5 (B) principal and interest payments will begin
6 not later than one year after completion of any treatment works and
7 all loans will be fully amortized not later than 20 years after
8 completion of the treatment works;

9 (C) the recipient of a loan will establish a
10 dedicated source of revenue for repayment of loans; and

11 (D) the revolving fund will be credited with all
12 payments of principal of and interest on all loans;

13 (2) to buy or refinance the debt obligation of
14 political subdivisions at or below market rates if the debt
15 obligations were incurred after March 7, 1985;

16 (3) to guarantee or purchase insurance for political
17 subdivisions if the guarantee or insurance would improve access to
18 market credit or reduce interest rates;

19 (4) as a source of revenue or security for the payment
20 of principal and interest on bonds issued by the state if the
21 proceeds of the sale of those bonds will be deposited in the
22 revolving fund;

23 (5) to provide loan guarantees to similar revolving
24 funds established by municipalities or intermunicipal agencies;

25 (6) to earn interest on revolving fund accounts;

26 (7) for the reasonable costs of administering the
27 revolving fund and conducting activities provided for by Title VI

1 of the federal act, except that those amounts may not exceed the
2 amount authorized under Title VI of the federal act;

3 (8) to provide financial assistance to persons for a
4 nonpoint source pollution control project under Section 319 of the
5 federal act or for an estuary management project under Section 320
6 of the federal act; ~~and~~

7 (9) for other purposes as provided by the federal act;
8 and

9 (10) to provide linked deposits to eligible lending
10 institutions for loans to persons for nonpoint source pollution
11 control projects.

12 SECTION 4. Subchapter J, Chapter 15, Water Code, is amended
13 by adding Sections 15.610 through 15.618 to read as follows:

14 Sec. 15.610. LINKED DEPOSIT. A linked deposit is a deposit
15 governed by a written deposit agreement between the board and an
16 eligible lending institution that provides that:

17 (1) the eligible lending institution pay interest on
18 the deposit at a rate determined by the board;

19 (2) the state not withdraw any part of the deposit
20 before the expiration of a period set by a written advance notice of
21 the intention to withdraw; and

22 (3) the eligible lending institution agree to lend the
23 value of the deposit to a person at a maximum rate that is the rate
24 paid by the eligible lending institution to the board plus a maximum
25 of four percent.

26 Sec. 15.611. LINKED DEPOSIT PROGRAM. (a) The board by
27 rule may establish a nonpoint source pollution control linked

1 deposit program in accordance with this subchapter.

2 (b) An eligible lending institution may participate in the
3 program established under this section as provided by this
4 subchapter.

5 Sec. 15.612. APPLICATION BY ELIGIBLE LENDING INSTITUTIONS
6 TO PARTICIPATE IN LINKED DEPOSIT PROGRAM. To participate in the
7 nonpoint source pollution control linked deposit program, an
8 eligible lending institution must:

9 (1) solicit loan applications, which must contain a
10 description of a proposed nonpoint source pollution control
11 project;

12 (2) review applications to determine if applicants are
13 eligible and creditworthy; and

14 (3) submit the applications of eligible and
15 creditworthy applicants to the executive administrator with a
16 certification:

17 (A) of the interest rate applicable to each
18 applicant by the eligible lending institution; and

19 (B) of the proposed project by the appropriate
20 person as required by Section 15.613.

21 Sec. 15.613. CERTIFICATION OF PROJECT. (a) An eligible
22 lending institution must obtain from a director of a soil and water
23 conservation district certification of an agricultural or
24 silvicultural nonpoint source pollution control project proposed
25 for the district. The certification must state that:

26 (1) the applicant of the proposed project has a water
27 quality management plan certified by the State Soil and Water

1 Conservation Board; and

2 (2) the project furthers or implements the plan.

3 (b) An eligible lending institution must obtain from the
4 executive director certification of a proposed nonpoint source
5 pollution control project that is not an agricultural or
6 silvicultural nonpoint source pollution control project. The
7 certification must state that the applicant's proposed project
8 implements the state's nonpoint source pollution management plan.

9 Sec. 15.614. APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF APPLICATION. The
10 board may approve or reject an application of an eligible lending
11 institution to participate in the program. The board may delegate
12 its authority to approve or reject an application to the executive
13 administrator.

14 Sec. 15.615. DEPOSIT AGREEMENT. If the board approves an
15 application of an eligible lending institution, the board and the
16 eligible lending institution shall enter into a written deposit
17 agreement. The agreement shall contain the conditions on which the
18 linked deposit is made. On execution of the agreement, the board
19 shall place a linked deposit from the revolving fund with the
20 eligible lending institution in accordance with the agreement. A
21 delay in payment or a default on a loan by an applicant does not
22 affect the validity of the deposit agreement.

23 Sec. 15.616. COMPLIANCE. (a) On accepting a linked
24 deposit, an eligible lending institution must lend money to an
25 approved applicant in accordance with the deposit agreement and
26 this subchapter. The eligible lending institution shall forward a
27 compliance report to the board in accordance with board rules. The

1 board shall adopt rules regarding the compliance report.

2 (b) The board shall monitor compliance with this subchapter
3 and inform the comptroller of noncompliance on the part of an
4 eligible lending institution.

5 Sec. 15.617. STATE LIABILITY PROHIBITED. The state is not
6 liable to an eligible lending institution for payment of the
7 principal, interest, or any late charges on a loan made to an
8 approved applicant. A linked deposit is not an extension of the
9 state's credit within the meaning of any state constitutional
10 prohibition.

11 Sec. 15.618. LIMITATIONS ON PROGRAM. (a) The maximum
12 amount of a loan under the linked deposit program is \$250,000.

13 (b) The board may withdraw linked deposits from an eligible
14 lending institution if the institution ceases to be either a state
15 depository or a Farm Credit System institution headquartered in
16 this state.

17 SECTION 5. Subdivisions (3) through (6), Section 17.871,
18 Water Code, are amended to read as follows:

19 (3) "Eligible lending institution" means a financial
20 institution that makes commercial loans, is either a depository of
21 state funds or an institution of the Farm Credit System
22 headquartered in this state, agrees to participate in a linked
23 deposit program established under Section 17.905 and to provide
24 collateral equal to the amount of linked deposits placed with it,
25 and meets any other requirements established by board rule
26 ["Conservation loan" means a loan from the board to a borrower
27 district or from a lender district to an individual borrower].

1 (4) "Fund" means the agricultural water conservation
2 fund authorized by Section 50-d, Article III, of the Texas
3 Constitution.

4 (5) "Person" means an individual, corporation,
5 partnership, association, or other legal entity that is not a
6 political subdivision [~~"Individual borrower" means a person who~~
7 ~~receives or is eligible to receive a conservation loan from a lender~~
8 ~~district~~].

9 (6) "Political subdivision" includes a district or
10 authority created under Section 52, Article III, or Section 59,
11 Article XVI, of the Texas Constitution, a municipality, a county,
12 an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003,
13 Education Code, any interstate compact commission to which the
14 state is a party, and any nonprofit water supply corporation
15 created and operating under Chapter 67 [~~"Lender district" means a~~
16 ~~political subdivision, including a soil and water conservation~~
17 ~~district under Chapter 201, Agriculture Code, a groundwater~~
18 ~~conservation district created under Article XVI, Section 59, of the~~
19 ~~Texas Constitution, or a district or authority created under~~
20 ~~Article III, Section 52(b)(1), or Article XVI, Section 59, of the~~
21 ~~Texas Constitution authorized to supply water for irrigation~~
22 ~~purposes, that is eligible to receive or that receives a loan from~~
23 ~~the board for the purpose of making conservation loans to~~
24 ~~individual borrowers~~].

25 SECTION 6. Subsections (c) and (d), Section 17.879, Water
26 Code, are amended to read as follows:

27 (c) By rule or in the resolution or order authorizing

1 issuance of bonds or other resolution or order of the board, the
2 board may establish an interest and sinking fund and may establish
3 accounts in the funds, including an interest and sinking account,
4 and may transfer money among the funds and accounts ~~[fund]~~.

5 (d) The board may invest and reinvest money in the fund, the
6 interest and sinking fund, and any account therein in any
7 obligations or securities as provided by bond resolutions, ~~[and]~~
8 orders of the board, and Section 404.024, Government Code.

9 SECTION 7. Subsection (a), Section 17.880, Water Code, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (a) Loans, bonds of political subdivisions ~~[borrower~~
12 ~~districts or lender districts]~~, and other obligations owned by the
13 state and deposited in the fund or in the interest and sinking fund
14 are considered to be securities under this subchapter.

15 SECTION 8. Subsection (b), Section 17.881, Water Code, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 (b) The board shall sell the loans or bonds of political
18 subdivisions ~~[borrower districts or lender districts]~~ at the price
19 and under the terms that it determines to be reasonable.

20 SECTION 9. Section 17.883, Water Code, is amended to read as
21 follows:

22 Sec. 17.883. BOND REVIEW BOARD. Bonds may not be issued
23 under this subchapter unless the issuance of the bonds has been
24 reviewed and approved by the bond review board. Prior to issuance
25 of bonds, the board shall estimate demand for ~~[agricultural water]~~
26 conservation programs or projects ~~[loans]~~ based on a survey of
27 ~~[districts]~~ eligible participants ~~[to participate]~~ in the program.

1 A summary of this information shall be furnished to the bond review
2 board.

3 SECTION 10. Section 17.894, Water Code, is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 17.894. BOND ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENTS; PAYMENT OF
6 EXPENSES. (a) The board at any time and from time to time may
7 enter into one or more bond enhancement agreements that the board
8 determines to be necessary or appropriate to place the obligation
9 of the board, as represented by the bonds, in whole or in part, on
10 the interest rate, currency, cash flow, or other basis desired by
11 the board. A bond enhancement agreement is an agreement for
12 professional services and shall contain the terms and conditions
13 and be for the period that the board approves.

14 (b) The fees and expenses of the board in connection with
15 the issuance of the bonds and the providing of financial assistance
16 to political subdivisions may be paid from money in the fund,
17 provided that any payments due from the board under a bond
18 enhancement agreement, other than fees and expenses, that relate to
19 the payment of debt service on the bonds constitute payments of
20 principal of and interest on the bonds.

21 (c) Bond enhancement agreements may include, on terms and
22 conditions approved by the board, interest rate swap agreements;
23 currency swap agreements; forward payment conversion agreements;
24 agreements providing for payments based on levels of or changes in
25 interest rates or currency exchange rates; agreements to exchange
26 cash flows or a series of payments; agreements, including options,
27 puts, or calls, to hedge payment, currency, rate, spread, or other

1 exposure; or other agreements that further enhance the
2 marketability, security, or creditworthiness of water financial
3 assistance bonds [~~USE OF FUND. (a) The board may use money in the~~
4 ~~fund to make conservation loans directly to borrower districts, to~~
5 ~~make loans to lender districts, and to pay the cost of bond~~
6 ~~issuance.~~

7 [~~(b) The board may use money in the fund:~~

8 [~~(1) to make loans to political subdivisions other~~
9 ~~than lender districts for agricultural water conservation~~
10 ~~projects;~~

11 [~~(2) to make grants to political subdivisions for~~
12 ~~agricultural water conservation projects as provided by~~
13 ~~legislative appropriation; or~~

14 [~~(3) to make grants to a state agency for the funding~~
15 ~~of any agricultural water conservation program of that agency,~~
16 ~~including a program in which the state agency provides funding to a~~
17 ~~political subdivision or a person for agricultural water~~
18 ~~conservation, as provided by legislative appropriation].~~

19 SECTION 11. Section 17.895, Water Code, is amended to read
20 as follows:

21 Sec. 17.895. SOURCES OF ASSETS. The fund is composed of:

22 (1) money and assets, including bond proceeds,
23 attributable to the bonds;

24 (2) investment income earned on money on deposit in
25 the fund and depository interest earned on money on deposit in the
26 state treasury;

27 (3) money appropriated by the legislature;

1 (4) repayments of principal and interest on loans made
2 under this subchapter;

3 (5) administrative fees charged by the board under the
4 bond program; and

5 (6) any other funds, regardless of their source, that
6 the board directs be deposited to the credit of the fund
7 ~~[CONSERVATION LOANS. (a) This section applies only to a~~
8 ~~conservation loan from a lender district that is:~~

9 ~~[(1) a soil and water conservation district under~~
10 ~~Chapter 201, Agriculture Code;~~

11 ~~[(2) a groundwater conservation district created~~
12 ~~under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution; or~~

13 ~~[(3) a district or authority created under Section~~
14 ~~52(b)(1), Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas~~
15 ~~Constitution.~~

16 ~~[(b) The board or a lender district may make conservation~~
17 ~~loans for capital equipment or materials, labor, preparation costs,~~
18 ~~and installation costs:~~

19 ~~[(1) to improve water use efficiency of water delivery~~
20 ~~and application on existing irrigation systems;~~

21 ~~[(2) for preparing irrigated land to be converted to~~
22 ~~dryland conditions; and~~

23 ~~[(3) for preparing dryland for more efficient use of~~
24 ~~natural precipitation.~~

25 ~~[(c) Conservation loans for the purposes listed in~~
26 ~~Subsection (b) may be made by lender districts to individual~~
27 ~~borrowers for use on private property or by the board to borrower~~

~~districts.~~

~~[(d) The board may make conservation loans to borrower districts for the cost of purchasing and installing devices, on public or private property, designed to indicate the amount of water withdrawn for irrigation purposes.~~

~~[(e) For purposes of this section, the board or lender districts may seek the advice of the Department of Agriculture regarding the feasibility of a project for which a conservation loan is sought].~~

SECTION 12. Section 17.896, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 17.896. REPAYMENT PROCEEDS. The board shall designate a transfer of repayment of principal and interest on a loan made under this subchapter to the fund, the interest and sinking fund, or any account in the funds ~~[INTEREST RATES AND FEES. (a) The board shall establish the rate of interest it charges for loans to lender districts or for conservation loans to borrower districts.~~

~~[(b) A lender district may charge individual borrowers an interest rate not to exceed the interest rate the lender district is charged by the board, plus one percent for administrative expenses.~~

~~[(c) A lender district may charge individual borrowers a one-time application fee in an amount determined by the board to cover costs of processing loan applications].~~

SECTION 13. Section 17.897, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 17.897. CONSERVATION PROGRAM. (a) A conservation program is:

1 (1) an agricultural water conservation technical
2 assistance program, including a program for an on-farm soil and
3 water conservation plan developed jointly by a landowner, an
4 operator, and a local soil and water conservation district as
5 provided by Subchapter H, Chapter 201, Agriculture Code;

6 (2) a research, demonstration, technology transfer,
7 or educational program relating to agricultural water use and
8 conservation;

9 (3) a precipitation enhancement program in an area of
10 the state where the program, in the board's judgment, would be most
11 effective; and

12 (4) any other agricultural water conservation program
13 defined by board rule.

14 (b) The costs of a conservation program eligible for
15 financial assistance under Section 17.899 are the costs of the
16 capital equipment, materials, labor, preparation, installation, or
17 administration directly associated with implementing and
18 completing the program [~~APPLICATION. A lender district that~~
19 ~~desires to obtain loans or a borrower district that desires to~~
20 ~~obtain conservation loans under this subchapter shall file with the~~
21 ~~executive administrator an application in the manner and in the~~
22 ~~form provided by board rules~~].

23 SECTION 14. Section 17.898, Water Code, is amended to read
24 as follows:

25 Sec. 17.898. CONSERVATION PROJECT. (a) A conservation
26 project is a project that:

27 (1) improves water use efficiency of water delivery

1 and application on existing irrigation systems;

2 (2) prepares irrigated land for conversion to dryland
3 conditions;

4 (3) prepares dryland for more efficient use of natural
5 precipitation;

6 (4) purchases and installs on public or private
7 property devices designed to indicate the amount of water withdrawn
8 for irrigation purposes;

9 (5) prepares and maintains land to be used for brush
10 control activities in areas of the state where those activities in
11 the board's judgment would be most effective, including activities
12 conducted under Chapter 203, Agriculture Code; or

13 (6) implements any other agricultural water
14 conservation project defined by board rule.

15 (b) The costs of a conservation project eligible for
16 financial assistance under Section 17.899 are the costs of the
17 capital equipment, materials, labor, preparation, installation, or
18 administration directly associated with implementing and
19 completing the project [~~CONSIDERATIONS IN PASSING ON AN~~
20 ~~APPLICATION. (a) In passing on an application from a lender~~
21 ~~district, the board shall consider the lender district's ability to~~
22 ~~manage a loan program, ability to repay any loan defaults, and~~
23 ~~overall conservation program.~~

24 [~~(b) In passing on an application from a borrower district,~~
25 ~~the board shall consider the ability of the borrower district to~~
26 ~~repay the conservation loan and whether the conservation loan will~~
27 ~~further water conservation].~~

SECTION 15. Section 17.899, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 17.899. ELIGIBLE FUND USES. (a) Money in the fund, excluding money in the interest and sinking fund, may be used by the board to:

(1) provide a grant to a state agency to fund a conservation program or conservation project, including a conservation program that provides funding to a political subdivision or person for a conservation project, as provided by legislative appropriation;

(2) provide a grant or loan to a political subdivision for a conservation program or conservation project;

(3) provide a linked deposit to an eligible financial institution for a loan to a person for a conservation project;

(4) pay for a board conservation program;

(5) make a transfer to the interest and sinking fund;

(6) pay the costs of a bond issuance; and

(7) pay for a board expense in administering the agricultural water conservation program under this subchapter.

(b) Money in the interest and sinking fund may be used for the payment of bonds or, to the extent there are funds in excess of bond payment requirements, for transfers to the fund, or any other account in the funds

~~[APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS. (a) The board may approve an application if, after considering the factors in Section 17.898 and other relevant factors, the board finds that:~~

~~[(1) the public interest would be served in granting the application;~~

1 ~~[(2) a lender district has the ability to make~~
2 ~~conservation loans, manage a conservation loan program, and repay~~
3 ~~the loan to the board,~~

4 ~~[(3) a borrower district has the ability to repay the~~
5 ~~conservation loan, and~~

6 ~~[(4) granting the application will further water~~
7 ~~conservation in the state.~~

8 ~~[(b) The board by rule may delegate to the executive~~
9 ~~administrator the authority to approve an application based on the~~
10 ~~considerations in Section 17.898 and on the findings in Subsection~~
11 ~~(a)].~~

12 SECTION 16. Section 17.900, Water Code, is amended to read
13 as follows:

14 Sec. 17.900. GRANT TO STATE AGENCY. (a) A state agency
15 seeking a grant for a conservation program or conservation project
16 as provided by legislative appropriation must file an application
17 with the board.

18 (b) In reviewing an application for a grant, the board shall
19 consider the terms of the legislative appropriation language. To
20 approve the grant, the board shall make the determination required
21 by the legislative language.

22 (c) The board may make money available to a state agency in
23 any manner that it considers feasible, including a grant agreement
24 with the state agency ~~[METHODS OF MAKING LOANS AND ENFORCING~~
25 ~~OBLIGATIONS.~~ (a) ~~The board may make financial assistance~~
26 ~~available to lender or borrower districts in any manner that it~~
27 ~~considers economically feasible, including purchase of bonds or~~

~~securities of the lender or borrower district, or by entering into a contract with the lender or borrower district. The board shall not purchase bonds or securities that have not been approved by the attorney general and registered by the comptroller.~~

~~[(b) In the event of default in payment of the principal of or interest on bonds or securities purchased by the board or any other default as defined in the proceedings or indentures authorizing the issuance of the bonds or the default of any of the terms of a contract, the attorney general shall institute legal proceedings by mandamus or other legal remedies to compel the lender or borrower district or its officers, agents, and employees to cure the default by performing those duties which they are legally obligated to perform. These proceedings shall be brought and venue shall be in a district court in Travis County.~~

~~[(c) This section is cumulative of any other rights or remedies to which the board may be entitled].~~

SECTION 17. Section 17.901, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 17.901. GRANT OR LOAN TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. The board may make a grant or loan to a political subdivision for a conservation program or conservation project. A political subdivision seeking a grant or loan must file an application with the board ~~[DEFAULT AND FORECLOSURE BY LENDER DISTRICTS. (a) In the event of a default in payment of a conservation loan made by a lender district or the failure of an individual borrower to perform any of the terms or conditions of the conservation loan agreement, the lender district shall pursue all remedies available under law,~~

~~including without limitation foreclosure under the conservation loan agreement and liquidation of any collateral provided under the conservation loan agreement. The lender district shall sell the collateral on terms and subject to procedures that it follows in liquidating other collateral.~~

~~[(b) Foreclosure under a conservation loan agreement shall be accomplished in the manner provided by law for foreclosure of similar loan agreements made by private lending institutions and by the conservation loan agreement.~~

~~[(c) The state guarantees to each lender district that in the event an individual borrower defaults on a conservation loan made by the lender district with money from this program, the state will assume 50 percent of the amount that remains due and payable under the default after all collateral for the conservation loan is liquidated.~~

~~[(d) The state is entitled to recover its pro rata share of any money recovered on a defaulted conservation loan on which the state has assumed liability under Subsection (c)].~~

SECTION 18. Section 17.902, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 17.902. REVIEW OF APPLICATION FOR AND APPROVAL OF GRANT. (a) In reviewing an application by a political subdivision for a grant, the board shall consider:

(1) the degree to which the political subdivision has used other available resources to finance the use for which the application is being made;

(2) the willingness and ability of the political

1 subdivision to raise revenue;

2 (3) the commitment of the political subdivision to
3 water conservation; and

4 (4) the benefits that will be gained by making the
5 grant.

6 (b) To approve a grant to a political subdivision, the board
7 must find that:

8 (1) the grant funds will supplement rather than
9 replace money of the political subdivision;

10 (2) the public interest is served by providing the
11 grant; and

12 (3) the grant will further water conservation in the
13 state ~~[AUTHORITY OF DISTRICTS. A lender or borrower district may~~
14 ~~borrow and lend money for the purposes of this subchapter and may~~
15 ~~adopt necessary rules to carry out this subchapter].~~

16 SECTION 19. Subchapter J, Chapter 17, Water Code, is
17 amended by adding Sections 17.9021 and 17.9022 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 17.9021. APPLICATION FOR AND APPROVAL OF LOAN.

19 (a) In reviewing an application by a political subdivision for a
20 loan, the board shall consider the ability of the political
21 subdivision to repay the loan and whether the loan will further
22 water conservation in this state.

23 (b) To approve a loan to a political subdivision, the board
24 must determine that:

25 (1) the public interest is served by providing the
26 loan;

27 (2) the political subdivision has the ability to repay

1 the loan; and

2 (3) the loan will further water conservation in the
3 state.

4 (c) The board by rule shall establish the rate of interest
5 it charges for a loan to a political subdivision.

6 Sec. 17.9022. FINANCING OF GRANT OR LOAN FOR POLITICAL
7 SUBDIVISION; DEFAULT; VENUE. (a) The board may make a loan or
8 grant available to a political subdivision in any manner the board
9 considers economically feasible, including purchase of bonds or
10 securities of the political subdivision or execution of a loan or
11 grant agreement with the political subdivision. The board may not
12 purchase bonds or securities that have not been approved by the
13 attorney general and registered by the comptroller.

14 (b) In the event of a default in payment of the principal of
15 or interest on bonds or securities purchased by the board, or any
16 other default as defined in the proceedings or indentures
17 authorizing the issuance of bonds, or a default of any of the terms
18 of a loan agreement, the attorney general shall seek a writ of
19 mandamus or other legal remedy to compel the political subdivision
20 or its officers, agents, and employees to cure the default by
21 performing the duties they are legally obligated to perform. The
22 proceedings shall be brought and venue is in a district court in
23 Travis County. This subsection is cumulative of any other rights or
24 remedies to which the board may be entitled.

25 SECTION 20. Section 17.903, Water Code, is amended to read
26 as follows:

27 Sec. 17.903. CONTRACT AUTHORITY. (a) A political

1 subdivision may borrow money for the purposes of this subchapter
 2 and may adopt necessary rules to carry out this subchapter [~~RULES~~
 3 ~~AND CONTRACTS.~~ (a) ~~The board shall adopt rules necessary to carry~~
 4 ~~out this subchapter. The board by rule shall identify methods to be~~
 5 ~~used by lender districts to ensure the financial integrity of a loan~~
 6 ~~to an individual borrower, including an irrevocable letter of~~
 7 ~~credit or a lien on property in excess of value of improvements].~~

8 (b) [~~The board by rule may establish:~~

9 [~~(1) procedures for applying for a loan or grant under~~
 10 ~~Section 17.894(b);~~

11 [~~(2) procedures for considering and approving~~
 12 ~~applications and for making loans or grants under Section~~
 13 ~~17.894(b); and~~

14 [~~(3) the rate of interest the board charges, if any,~~
 15 ~~for loans under Section 17.894(b).~~

16 [~~(c)~~] The board shall have the power to enter into any
 17 contracts to carry out the provisions of this subchapter.

18 SECTION 21. Subchapter J, Chapter 17, Water Code, is
 19 amended by adding Sections 17.904 through 17.912 to read as
 20 follows:

21 Sec. 17.904. LINKED DEPOSIT. A linked deposit is a deposit
 22 governed by a written deposit agreement between the board and an
 23 eligible lending institution that provides that:

24 (1) the eligible lending institution pay interest on
 25 the deposit at a rate determined by the board;

26 (2) the state not withdraw any part of the deposit
 27 before the expiration of a period set by a written advance notice of

1 the intention to withdraw; and

2 (3) the eligible lending institution agree to lend the
3 value of the deposit to a person at a maximum rate that is the rate
4 paid by the eligible lending institution to the board plus a maximum
5 of four percent.

6 Sec. 17.905. LINKED DEPOSIT PROGRAM. (a) The board by
7 rule may establish an agricultural water conservation linked
8 deposit program in accordance with this subchapter.

9 (b) An eligible lending institution may participate in the
10 program established under this section as provided by this
11 subchapter.

12 Sec. 17.906. APPLICATION BY ELIGIBLE LENDING INSTITUTIONS
13 TO PARTICIPATE IN LINKED DEPOSIT PROGRAM. To participate in the
14 agricultural water conservation linked deposit program, an
15 eligible lending institution must:

16 (1) solicit loan applications, which must contain a
17 description of an agricultural water conservation project;

18 (2) review applications to determine if applicants are
19 eligible and creditworthy; and

20 (3) submit the applications of eligible and
21 creditworthy applicants to the executive administrator with a
22 certification:

23 (A) of the interest rate applicable to each
24 applicant by the eligible lending institution; and

25 (B) of the soil and water conservation district
26 in which an applicant is located by a director of the district that
27 states that:

1 (i) the applicant of the proposed project
2 has a soil and water conservation plan approved by the district; and
3 (ii) the project furthers or implements the
4 plan.

5 Sec. 17.907. APPROVAL OR REJECTION OF APPLICATION. The
6 board may approve or reject an application of an eligible lending
7 institution to participate in the program. The board may delegate
8 its authority to approve or reject applications to the executive
9 administrator.

10 Sec. 17.908. DEPOSIT AGREEMENT. If the board approves an
11 application of an eligible lending institution, the board and the
12 eligible lending institution shall enter into a written deposit
13 agreement. The agreement shall contain the conditions on which the
14 linked deposit is made. On execution of the agreement, the board
15 shall place a linked deposit from the fund with the eligible lending
16 institution in accordance with the agreement. A delay in payment or
17 a default on a loan by an applicant does not affect the validity of
18 the deposit agreement.

19 Sec. 17.909. COMPLIANCE. (a) On accepting a linked
20 deposit, an eligible lending institution must lend money to an
21 approved applicant in accordance with the deposit agreement and
22 this subchapter. The eligible lending institution shall forward a
23 compliance report to the board in accordance with board rules. The
24 board shall adopt rules regarding the compliance report.

25 (b) The board shall monitor compliance with this subchapter
26 and inform the comptroller of noncompliance on the part of an
27 eligible lending institution.

1 Sec. 17.910. STATE LIABILITY PROHIBITED. The state is not
2 liable to an eligible lending institution for payment of the
3 principal, interest, or any late charges on a loan made to an
4 approved applicant. A linked deposit is not an extension of the
5 state's credit within the meaning of any state constitutional
6 prohibition.

7 Sec. 17.911. LIMITATIONS ON PROGRAM. (a) The maximum
8 amount of a loan under the linked deposit program is \$250,000.

9 (b) The board may withdraw linked deposits from an eligible
10 lending institution if the institution ceases to be either a state
11 depository or a Farm Credit System institution headquartered in
12 this state.

13 Sec. 17.912. RULES. The board shall adopt rules necessary
14 to carry out this subchapter. Applications shall be in the form and
15 manner as provided by board rules.

16 SECTION 22. The agricultural trust fund and the
17 agricultural soil and water conservation fund are abolished and all
18 assets of those funds are transferred to the agricultural water
19 conservation fund.

20 SECTION 23. The following provisions of the Water Code are
21 repealed:

- 22 (1) Subchapters G, H, and I, Chapter 15; and
23 (2) Subdivision (2), Section 17.871, Subdivision (7),
24 Section 17.871, and Section 17.8955.

25 SECTION 24. The Texas Water Development Board shall
26 continue to administer a loan made before the effective date of this
27 Act under the pilot program for low-interest loans for agricultural

1 water conservation equipment until the loan is fully repaid.
2 Subchapter I, Chapter 15, Water Code, is continued in effect for the
3 limited purpose of allowing the board to administer those loans and
4 to pursue remedies if a loan recipient defaults on a loan or
5 otherwise violates the terms of the loan or of any loan guarantee
6 instrument.

7 SECTION 25. The Texas Water Development Board shall
8 continue to administer a conservation loan made before the
9 effective date of this Act under Subchapter J, Chapter 17, Water
10 Code. Subchapter J, Chapter 17, Water Code, as it existed
11 immediately before the effective date of this Act, is continued in
12 effect for the limited purpose of allowing the board to administer
13 those loans and to pursue remedies if a loan recipient defaults on a
14 loan or otherwise violates the terms of the loan or of any loan
15 guarantee.

16 SECTION 26. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.