

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of a task force to evaluate matters
3 regarding water conservation.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "task force" means the
6 water conservation implementation task force created under Section
7 2 of this Act.

8 SECTION 2. WATER CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE.

9 (a) The Texas Water Development Board shall select members of the
10 water conservation implementation task force to represent the
11 following entities and interest groups from applicants recommended
12 by the following entities and interest groups:

- 13 (1) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- 14 (2) Department of Agriculture;
- 15 (3) Parks and Wildlife Department;
- 16 (4) State Soil and Water Conservation Board;
- 17 (5) Texas Water Development Board;
- 18 (6) regional water planning groups;
- 19 (7) federal agencies;
- 20 (8) municipalities;
- 21 (9) groundwater conservation districts;
- 22 (10) river authorities;
- 23 (11) environmental groups;
- 24 (12) irrigation districts;

- 1 (13) industries;
- 2 (14) institutional water users;
- 3 (15) professional organizations focused on water
- 4 conservation; and
- 5 (16) higher education.

6 (b) The executive administrator of the Texas Water
7 Development Board or the administrator's designee is the presiding
8 officer of the task force.

9 SECTION 3. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall
10 review, evaluate, and recommend optimum levels of water use
11 efficiency and conservation for the state by:

12 (1) identifying, evaluating, and selecting best
13 management practices for municipal, industrial, and agricultural
14 water uses and evaluating the costs and benefits for the selected
15 best management practices;

16 (2) evaluating the implementation of water
17 conservation strategies recommended in regional and state water
18 plans;

19 (3) considering the need to establish and maintain a
20 statewide public awareness program for water conservation;

21 (4) evaluating the proper role, if any, for state
22 funding of incentive programs that may facilitate the
23 implementation of best management practices and water conservation
24 strategies;

25 (5) advising the Texas Water Development Board and the
26 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on:

27 (A) a standardized methodology for reporting and

1 using per capita water use data;

2 (B) establishing per capita water use targets and
3 goals, accounting for such local effects as climate and
4 demographics; and

5 (C) other possible uses as appropriate; and

6 (6) evaluating the appropriate state oversight and
7 support of any conservation initiatives adopted by the legislature.

8 SECTION 4. ASSISTANCE OF STATE AGENCIES. The task force may
9 request the assistance of state agencies, departments, or offices
10 to carry out its duties, including necessary staff support.

11 SECTION 5. PUBLIC MEETINGS. The task force may hold public
12 meetings as needed to fulfill its duties under this Act.

13 SECTION 6. BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES GUIDE; REPORT. Not
14 later than November 1, 2004, the task force shall develop a best
15 management practices guide for use by regional water planning
16 groups and political subdivisions responsible for water delivery
17 service and shall make a final report to the lieutenant governor,
18 the speaker of the house of representatives, and the legislature
19 evaluating the issues described in Section 3 of this Act.

20 SECTION 7. EXPIRATION OF ACT AND ABOLITION OF TASK FORCE.
21 This Act expires and the task force is abolished on January 1, 2005.

22 SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
23 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
24 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
25 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
26 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2003.