

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) evaluating the need for a standardized methodology
26 for reporting and using per capita water data, for establishing per
27 capita water use targets and goals, including such local effects as

1 climate and demographics, and for other possible uses as
2 appropriate; and

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

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

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

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

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

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