

By: Madla

S.B. No. 1656

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

relating to prohibiting the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality from amending, interpreting, impairing, or modifying a written contract for the provision of water.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11.041, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

(a) Any person entitled to receive or use water from any canal, ditch, flume, lateral, dam, reservoir, or lake or from any conserved or stored supply may present to the commission a written petition showing:

(1) that he is entitled to receive or use the water;

(2) that he is willing and able to pay a just and reasonable price for the water;

(3) that the party owning or controlling the water supply has water not contracted to others and available for the petitioner's use; ~~and~~

(4) that the party owning or controlling the water supply fails or refuses to supply the available water to the petitioner, or that the price or rental demanded for the available water is not reasonable and just or is discriminatory; and

(5) that the petitioner has not entered into a contract with the party owning or controlling the water supply.

1 (h) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission may not
2 amend, interpret, impair, or modify a written contract for the
3 provision of water for any purpose provided by this chapter or
4 Chapter 12 or 13.

5 SECTION 2. Section 12.013, Water Code, is amended by adding
6 Subsection (i) to read as follows:

7 (i) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission may not
8 amend, interpret, impair, or modify a written contract for the
9 provision of raw or treated water for any purpose provided by
10 Chapter 11, this chapter, or Chapter 13.

11 SECTION 3. Section 13.041, Water Code, is amended by adding
12 Subsection (h) to read as follows:

13 (h) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission may not
14 amend, interpret, impair, or modify a written contract for the
15 provision of water for any purpose provided by Chapter 11 or 12 or
16 this chapter.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.