

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 31, 2003

TO: Honorable Robert Puente, Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources

FROM: John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1534 by Cook, Robby (Relating to the removal of certain powers of groundwater conservation districts.), **As Introduced**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would repeal sections of the Water Code relating to a groundwater conservation district's authority, including authority to purchase, sell, transport, and distribute surface water or groundwater for any purpose and the power to exercise eminent domain. The changes would not affect contracts entered into prior to the effective date of the bill, nor would the changes affect eminent domain actions initiated before the effective date.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2003.

Local Government Impact

According to the Texas Groundwater Conservation Association, the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District, and the Bee Groundwater Conservation District, there would be little or no fiscal impact as a result of implementation of the provisions of the bill. The Edwards Aquifer Authority, however, indicated unknown but significant costs associated with the repeal of powers of eminent domain.

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JK, CL, DLBa