

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 78TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 11, 2003

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

FROM: John Keel, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1617 by Cook, Robby (Relating to the fees of office for a director of a groundwater conservation district.), **As Introduced**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Section 36.060(a), Water Code, to remove the cap currently set for the fees of office to which a director of a groundwater conservation district is entitled. The bill would take effect September 1, 2003.

Local Government Impact

Current statute limits fees paid to a groundwater conservation district director to no more than \$9,000 annually. A director is entitled to fees of no more than \$150 per day for each day spent performing the duties of a director. If the \$9,000 cap is removed, the expense to the district would be an additional \$150 per day of district work performed per district director. A district may include from five to 11 directors; therefore the added expense (above the current \$9,000 annual cap) could range from \$750 per day to \$1,650 per day depending on the number of directors.

With the \$9,000 annual cap, a director is limited to working 60 days per year for reimbursement, in addition to associated expenses. If one director were to perform district duties for 250 days (50 weeks of 5-day work weeks), the district would incur additional director fees of \$28,500 (250 days minus current 60 day maximum = 190 days X \$150).

The impact would depend on the number of days beyond 60 worked and the number of directors working more than 60 days.

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JK, CL, JB, DLBa