

Amend CSHB 2233 as follows:

On page 45, after line 15, insert the following:

SECTION 129. Chapter 13, Water Code, is amended by adding Subchapter O to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER O. STUDY CONCERNING FUNDING OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE
DEVELOPMENT

Sec. 13.551. (a) To evaluate the establishment of a fair and reasonable funding mechanism for providing for the state's future water supply and infrastructure needs, a legislative oversight committee is created to:

(1) ensure funding is available to provide for adequate water supply for the future of Texas;

(2) provide a revenue-generating mechanism that is derived from data evaluation and analysis of equitable fee structures and reporting mechanisms;

(3) evaluate public policy implications for assessing a water conservation and development fee; and

(4) provide a source of dedicated funds for water infrastructure needs for the next 50 years.

(b) In recognition of the importance of providing for the state's water infrastructure and of the need to structure a fair and reasonable funding mechanism that will fund such infrastructure, there is created the Legislative Oversight Committee on Water Financing.

(c) The oversight committee is composed of 10 members of the legislature as follows:

(1) five members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor, one of whom shall be the chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee; and

(2) five members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives, one of whom shall be the chair of the House Natural Resources Committee.

(d) The position of presiding officer of the oversight committee shall alternate annually between the chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee and the chair of the House Natural Resources Committee. The chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee shall serve as the first presiding officer, with a term

beginning on September 1, 2005.

(e) Other than the chairs of the senate and house natural resources committees, members serve at the will of the person who appointed each member.

(f) The board shall provide staff support for the oversight committee. The executive administrator of the board shall compile and analyze for the committee's use information received by the board regarding water use throughout the state, water infrastructure needs throughout the state, the adequacy of current funding for such infrastructure needs, and gaps in the ability to fund such infrastructure.

(g) The oversight committee shall conduct public hearings and study public policy implications for assessing a water conservation and development fee as a source of dedicated funds for water infrastructure development. Specifically, the oversight committee shall determine how to establish and implement the fee, including recommendations on:

(1) constitutional dedication of revenues in the water infrastructure fund;

(2) the amount of the fee and the impact of the fee on all water users;

(3) the uses upon which the fee shall be assessed; and

(4) any appropriate reservations of the fee.

(h) The oversight committee may appoint technical subcommittees, which may include persons other than the members of the oversight committee. The oversight committee shall appoint a technical advisory subcommittee composed of financial advisors and bond counsel.

(i) The oversight committee shall provide a report on or before August 31, 2006, to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives addressing the topics included in Subsection (h) and recommending any needed legislation.

(j) The oversight committee shall adopt rules to administer this section.

(k) The oversight committee is abolished and this subchapter expires September 1, 2009.