

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
80R16072 TAD-D

H.B. 1498
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Natural Resources
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Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Currently, Northeast Texas, and specifically Panola County, does not have any groundwater conservation districts. Texas currently faces a difficult challenge to develop water policies that serve both state and regional interests. The Texas Constitution authorizes the creation of groundwater conservation districts to manage and conserve groundwater.

H.B. 1498 creates the Panola County Groundwater Conservation District, subject to approval at a confirmation election, to manage, monitor, and conserve Panola County's groundwater resources.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the board of directors of the Panola County Groundwater Conservation District in SECTION 1 (Section 8819.152, Special District Local Laws Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subtitle H, Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, by adding Chapter 8819, as follows:

CHAPTER 8819. PANOLA COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Sets forth the standard language for the creation of the Panola County Groundwater Conservation District (district). Sets forth standards, procedures, requirements, and criteria for:

Creation and approval of the district (Sections 8819.001 - 8819.020);

Size, composition, election, and terms of the board of directors of the district (Sections 8819.021 - 8819.100);

Powers and duties of the district (Section 8819.101 - 8819.150); and

General financial provisions and authority to impose taxes and fees and issue bonds and notes for the district (Sections 8819.151 - 8819.153).

Does not authorize the use of eminent domain by the district.

SECTION 2. Provides that all requirements of the constitution and laws of this state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled and accomplished.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2007.