

By: Guillen (Senate Sponsor - Uresti) H.B. No. 2883  
(In the Senate - Received from the House May 8, 2007;  
May 10, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural  
Resources; May 22, 2007, reported favorably, as amended, by the  
following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 22, 2007, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT NO. 1 By: Uresti

Amend HB 2883, beginning on page 1, line 56, (Engrossed  
version) by striking SECTIONS 1 and 2, and substituting the  
following:

SECTION 1. Section 1.003, Water Code, is amended to read as  
follows:

Sec. 1.003. PUBLIC POLICY. It is the public policy of the  
state to provide for the conservation and development of the  
state's natural resources, including:

(1) the control, storage, preservation, and  
distribution of the state's storm and floodwaters and the waters of  
its rivers and streams for irrigation, power, and other useful  
purposes;

(2) the reclamation and irrigation of the state's  
arid, semiarid, and other land needing irrigation;

(3) the reclamation and drainage of the state's  
overflowed land and other land needing drainage;

(4) the conservation and development of its forest,  
water, and hydroelectric power;

(5) the navigation of the state's inland and coastal  
waters; ~~and~~

(6) the maintenance of a proper ecological environment  
of the bays and estuaries of Texas and the health of related living  
marine resources; and

(7) the voluntary stewardship of public and private  
lands to benefit waters of the state.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 1, Water Code, is  
amended by amending Section 1.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.004. FINDINGS AND POLICY REGARDING LAND STEWARDSHIP.

(a) The legislature finds that voluntary land stewardship  
enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of this state's  
watersheds by helping to increase surface water and groundwater  
supplies, resulting in a benefit to the natural resources of this  
state and to the general public. It is therefore the policy of this  
state to encourage voluntary land stewardship as a significant  
water management tool.

(b) "Land stewardship," as used in this code, is the voluntary  
practice of managing land to conserve or enhance suitable  
landscapes and the ecosystem values of the land. Land stewardship  
includes land and habitat management, wildlife conservation, and  
watershed protection. Land stewardship practices include runoff  
reduction, prescribed burning, managed grazing, brush management,  
erosion management, reseeding with native plant species, riparian  
management and restoration, and spring and creek-bank protection,  
all of which benefit the water resources of this state.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

relating to a state policy of encouraging voluntary land  
stewardship to benefit the water in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Section 1.003, Water Code, is amended to read as  
follows:

Sec. 1.003. PUBLIC POLICY. It is the public policy of the  
state to provide for the conservation and development of the  
state's natural resources, including:

(1) the control, storage, preservation, and  
distribution of the state's storm and floodwaters and the waters of

its rivers and streams for irrigation, power, and other useful purposes;

(2) the reclamation and irrigation of the state's arid, semiarid, and other land needing irrigation;

(3) the reclamation and drainage of the state's overflowed land and other land needing drainage;

(4) the conservation and development of its forest, water, and hydroelectric power;

(5) the navigation of the state's inland and coastal waters; ~~and~~

(6) the maintenance of a proper ecological environment of the bays and estuaries of Texas and the health of related living marine resources; and

(7) the voluntary stewardship of public and private lands to benefit the water in the state, as defined by Section 26.001.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 1, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 1.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 1.004. FINDINGS AND POLICY REGARDING LAND STEWARDSHIP.

(a) The legislature finds that voluntary land stewardship enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of this state's watersheds by helping to increase surface water and groundwater supplies, resulting in a benefit to the natural resources of this state and to the general public. It is therefore the policy of this state to encourage voluntary land stewardship as a significant water management tool by providing assistance to landowners to conduct those activities.

(b) "Land stewardship," as used in this code, is the voluntary practice of managing land to conserve or enhance suitable landscapes and the ecosystem values of the land. Land stewardship includes land and habitat management, wildlife conservation, and watershed protection. Land stewardship practices include runoff reduction, prescribed burning, managed grazing, brush management, erosion management, reseeding with native plant species, riparian management and restoration, and spring and creek-bank protection, all of which benefit the water resources of this state.

SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 11.0235, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Maintaining the biological soundness of the state's rivers, lakes, bays, and estuaries is of great importance to the public's economic health and general well-being. The legislature encourages voluntary water and land stewardship to benefit the water in the state, as defined by Section 26.001.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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