

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 17, 2007

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

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB911 by Callegari (Relating to the requirements for interbasin water transfers.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend several provisions in Chapter 11.085 of the Texas Water Code relating to interbasin transfers including notice and public meeting requirements, drought contingency plan requirements, water conservation plan requirements, and the ability of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to redesignate river basins by rule. The bill would add two new exemptions regarding interbasin transfers based on contractual sales and transfers from storage reservoirs. The TWDB does not anticipate any fiscal implications to the agency associated with these revised provisions.

The bill would also repeal various sections of Chapter 11.085, most notably Subsection (s), which would remove global junior water rights provisions for interbasin transfers. According to the TWDB, the removal of junior water rights provisions for interbasin transfers could prompt regional water planning groups to amend their regional water plans to include interbasin transfers as water management strategies in their plans because as provided by the bill, these transfers would no longer be considered junior to all existing water rights in a basin and would be a more reliable water source for a region. There could be a cost to the state if the TWDB funded these water plan amendments; however, it is not anticipated to be significant.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 580 Water Development Board, 582 Commission on Environmental Quality

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