

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 80TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 2, 2007

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

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

IN RE: HB1656 by Puente (Relating to regulation of irrigation systems and irrigators.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would add Section 49.238 to the Water Code to authorize a district created by either Sections 52(b)(1) and (2), Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, to adopt and enforce rules for regulating installers of irrigation systems and to charge an installer a fee to cover costs of obtaining or renewing a permit. A district would also be authorized to employ or contract with a licensed plumbing inspector, the district's operator, or another governmental entity to enforce the district's regulatory rules.

The bill would add Section 401.006 to the Water Code to require a municipality with a population of 20,000 or more by ordinance to require an installer of irrigation systems to hold a license and to obtain a permit before installing a system within the territorial limits or extraterritorial jurisdiction of the municipality. The municipality would be authorized to charge an installer a fee to cover the costs of obtaining or renewing a permit. A municipality would also be authorized to employ or contract with a licensed plumbing inspector to enforce the ordinance.

The bill would take effect immediately if it were to receive the required two-thirds vote in each house; otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.

Local Government Impact

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

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JOB, WK, DB