

By: Callegari, Creighton

H.B. No. 2063

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the enforcement of rules by a groundwater conservation district.

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

SECTION 1. Section 36.102, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 36.102. ENFORCEMENT OF RULES. (a) A district may enforce this chapter and its rules against any person by injunction, mandatory injunction, or other appropriate remedy in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(b) The board by rule may set reasonable civil penalties against any person for breach of any rule of the district not to exceed \$10,000 per day per violation, and each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate violation.

(c) A penalty under this section is in addition to any other penalty provided by the law of this state and may be enforced against any person by complaints filed in the appropriate court of jurisdiction in the county in which the district's principal office or meeting place is located.

(d) If the district prevails in any suit to enforce its rules, the district may seek and the court shall grant against any person, in the same action, recovery for attorney's fees, costs for expert witnesses, and other costs incurred by the district before the court. The amount of the attorney's fees shall be fixed by the

1 court.

2           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
3 36.102, Water Code, does not affect an action, lawsuit, or appeal  
4 filed before the effective date of this Act. Section 36.102, Water  
5 Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to an action, lawsuit, or  
6 appeal filed on or after the effective date of this Act. An action  
7 filed before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in  
8 effect when the action was filed, and the former law is continued in  
9 effect for that purpose.

10           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.