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         By: Eltife
                                                                                          S.B. No. 1223
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                   (In the Senate - Filed March 2, 2009; April 17, 2009, read time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources;
         first
         April 2, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 2, 2009, sent to printer.)
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                                            A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
                                                       AN ACT
         relating to the creation, administration, powers, duties, and operation of the Riverbend Water Resources District; providing authority to issue bonds and exercise the power of eminent domain.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
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         SECTION 1. Title 6, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Subtitle L to read as follows:
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                               SUBTITLE L. MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICTS
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                       CHAPTER 9601. RIVERBEND WATER RESOURCES DISTRICT
SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS
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                          9601.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:
                  Sec.
                                   "Board" means the board of directors of
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                           (1)
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         district.
         (2) "Bond" has the meaning assigned to the term "public security" by Section 1202.001, Government Code.

(3) "Director" means a person appointed to the board.
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                                                                                          to the term
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                                  "District" means the Riverbend Water Resources
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                           (4)
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         District.
         (5) "Member" means a municipality, county, or other political subdivision that is a member of the district as provided
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         by Section 9601.005.
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                   Sec. 9601.002.
                                           NATURE OF DISTRICT.
                                                                                 The
                                                                                       district
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         conservation and reclamation district created under and essential
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         to accomplish the purposes of Section 59, Article XVI,
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         Constitution.
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                  Sec. 9601.003. FINDINGS OF BENEFIT AND PUBLIC PURPOSE.
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                 The district is created to serve a public use and benefit.
         (b) All land and other property included in the boundaries of the district will benefit from the works and projects accomplished by the district under the powers conferred by Section
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         59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

(c) The accomplishment of the purposes stated in this
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         chapter is for the benefit of the people of this state and the improvement of their property and industries and will foster and encourage economic development in this state.

(d) The district, in carrying out the purposes of this
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         chapter, w___constitution.
Sec. 9601.004.
         chapter, will be performing an essential public function under the
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         Sec. 9601.004. LIBERAL CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER. This chapter shall be liberally construed to effect the purposes,
                                                                                                        This
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         powers, rights, and functions stated in this chapter.
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                   Sec. 9601.005. DISTRICT MEMBERS.
                                                                            (a) The
                                                                                           district is
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         composed of the following members:
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                                  the City of Annona;
the City of Avery;
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                           (2)
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                           (3)
                                  the City of DeKalb;
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                                  the City of Hooks;
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                                  the City of Maud;
the City of New Boston;
the City of Texarkana, Texas;
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                           (5)
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                                  the City of Wake Village; and
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                           (8)
                           (9)
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                                  the Red River Redevelopment Authority.
                   (b)
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                          After receipt of a petition from the governing body of a
         municipality, county, or other political subdivision that desires to join the district, the board may add a member to the district on terms determined by the board to be in the best interests of the
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A member's withdrawal from the district or the cessation

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district.

(C)

S.B. No. 1223 existence of a member does not affect the validity of the of existence of a member does not affect the district or any of the district's powers or duties.

OCOL DISTRICT TERRITORY. (a) The territory of 2-1 2-2

the district is composed of all the territory contained in:

(1)the cities of Annona, Avery, DeKalb, Hooks, Maud,

Texarkana, Texas, and Wake Village; and (2) the Red River Redevelopment Authority, New Boston,

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of which are described by Section 3503.004, including boundaries territory that may be added under Section 3503.005.

The territory of the district also includes all of the (b) territory:

of any municipality, county, or other political subdivision that joins the district as a member; and

(2) added to the territory of a member by annexation or other means.

(c) A defect in the description of the boundaries of a member or in any past or future proceedings for the annexation of territory by a member does not affect the validity, powers, or duties of the district.

Sec. 9601.007. CONFIRMATION ELECTION NOT REQUIRED. The board is not required to hold an election to confirm the district's creation.

(b) Sections 49.101-49.105, Water Code, do not apply to the district.

[Sections 9601.008-9601.050 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sec. 9601.051. COMPOSITION OF BOARD; TERMS. (a) The district is governed by its board.

(b) The governing body of each member shall appoint a director to represent the member on the board and shall promptly fill a vacancy in that board position in accordance with the member's policies, resolutions, and procedures.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), directors serve

staggered terms of four years.

(d) A director who is also an elected official of a political subdivision serves for a term coinciding with the term of the elected office.

(e) The board shall determine the method of staggering the terms of the directors.
(f) A director m

A director may serve consecutive terms.

Sec. 9601.052. QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE. To be <u>eligible</u> appointed or to serve as a director, a person must be a resident, qualified voter of the district.

Sec. 9601.053. BOARD RESOLUTIONS; VOTING REQUIREMENTS. The district shall act through orders or resolutions adopted (a) by the board.

All directors are entitled to vote. (b)

9601.054. OFFICERS AND ASSISTANTS. (a) The board Sec. shall elect a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

The board shall elect the president and vice president (b) from among the directors.

(C) The president and vice president serve for a one-year term.

The offices of secretary and treasurer: (d)

may be held by one person; and are not required to be held by a director

The board may appoint one or more assistant officers who (e) are not required to be directors.

A person may not concurrently hold the offices of board (f) president and secretary.

Sec. 9601.055. MEETINGS. The board shall have regular meetings at times specified by board resolution or bylaws and shall have special meetings when called by the board president or by a number of directors that is equal to or greater than the number of directors that is one less than a majority of the board.

Sec. 9601.056. TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALL MEETINGS. The board may hold an open or closed meeting by telephone conference call only if:

(1) the meeting is a special called meeting;

immediate action is required; and

(3) convening a quorum of the board at one location is difficult or impossible.

(b) A telephone conference call meeting is subject to the notice requirements applicable to other meetings of the board.

- (c) Each part of a telephone conference call meeting that required to be open to the public shall be made audible to the public at the location specified in the notice of the meeting as the location of the meeting.

 (d) The location designated in the notice as the location of
- the meeting shall provide two-way communication during the entire telephone conference call meeting, and the identification of each party to the telephone conference shall be clearly stated prior to speaking.

(e) Section 551.125, Government Code, does not apply to a

meeting held under this section.
Sec. 9601.057. RECALL. A director may be recalled at any by the governing body of the member that appointed the director.

Sec. 9601.058. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT. A director entitled to compensation for service on the board but is entitled to be reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.

Sec. 9601.059. BOARD POSITION NOT CIVIL OFFICE Α A position on the board may not be construed to be EMOLUMENT. (a) a civil office of emolument for any purpose, including a purpose described in Section 40, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

(b) An elected official of any county, municipality, other political subdivision in the territory of the district may be appointed to and serve on the board as a director without penalty or forfeiture of office.

[Sections 9601.060-9601.100 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES

Sec. 9601.101. GENERAL POWERS. Except as provided by this chapter, the district may exercise the powers applicable to a district under Chapter 49, Water Code.

Sec. 9601.102. SPECIFIC POWERS. The district may exercise

any power necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this chapter, including the power to:

adopt and enforce:

(A) a trade name or trademark;

(B) bylaws and rules for the conduct of the affairs of the district;

adopt and enforce in accordance with Sections
Water Code; and district may 51.127-51.130,

(D) specific rates, charges, fees, or rentals, and reasonable rules and regulations, for providing any district commodity, facility, or service;

the manner and to the extent permitted by this in chapter:

> (A) borrow money for a district purpose;

> > (B) enter into an agreement in connection with

the borrowing;

issue bonds for money borrowed; (C)

provide for and secure the payment of the (D)

bonds; and

(E) provide for the rights of the holders of the

bonds; 3-59 3-60

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acquire any and all storage rights and storage capacity in a reservoir or other water source inside or outside the boundaries of the district, and acquire the right to take water from that reservoir or source, subject to the rights or permits held by municipalities or other persons, and in accordance with any contract or contracts that the district may make with the United States, any state of the United States, or any political subdivision of any state of the United States, in reference to those rights;

(4) construct, acquire, own, finance, operate,

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maintain, sell, lease as lessor or lessee, dispose of, or otherwise use any work, plant, or other district facility as defined by Section 49.001, Water Code, inside or outside the boundaries of the 4-1 4-2 4-3 4-4 district, that the board determines is necessary or useful for the exercise of a district power; and 4-5 **4**-6

(5) pledge all or part of district revenue to payment of district obligations under a contract or agreement to the same extent and on the same conditions as the district may

pledge revenue to secure district bonds.

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REGARDING WATER. Sec. 9601.103. GENERAL POWERS The district has all rights, powers, and privileges necessary or useful to enable it to acquire, provide, supply, deliver, and sell water, whether processed or unprocessed, raw or potable, inside or outside its boundaries to any person for any beneficial purpose.

Sec. 9601.104. AUTHORITY OF PUBLIC AGENCIES AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS TO CONTRACT WITH DISTRICT. (a) A public agency or a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state or another state may enter into a contract or agreement with the district, on terms agreed to by the parties, for:

the purchase or sale of water; (1)

(2) waste collection, transportation, processing, or disposal; or

(3) any purpose relating to the district's powers or functions.

(b) A contract or agreement under this section must comply with Chapter 791, Government Code.

(c) A provision of district services or facilities to a provision of district power regarding a member's retail member or an exercise of district power regarding a member's retail services may only be made through a contract between the district and the member under this section.
Sec. 9601.105. CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY TO DISTRICT

public agency or a county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state may lease, sell, or otherwise convey to the district, for any consideration that the parties agree is adequate, any of its land, improvements, property, plants, lines, or other facilities related to:

(1) the supply, delivery, or sale of water;

(2) waste collection, transportation, processing, disposal; or (3)

garbage collection or disposal

9601.106. ACQUISITION OF EXISTING FACILITIES. If th<u>e</u> facili<u>ties</u>, district acquires existing works, improvements, plants, equipment, or appliances that created, or under construction, the district may:

(1) assume the contracts and obligations of the equipment, or appliances that are completed, partially

previous owner; and

(2) perform the obligations of the previous owner in the same manner and to the same extent that any other purchaser or assignee would be bound.
[Sections 9601.107-9601.150 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER D. GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

9601.151. PROHIBITION ON ASSESSMENTS TAXES. The district may not under this chapter or any other law impose an assessment on real property or an ad valorem tax or create a debt payable from an assessment on real property or an ad valorem tax.
(b) Sections 49.106-49.108, Water Code, do not apply to the

district.

Sec. 9601.152. DEPOSITORY. District money shall be deposited in the depository or depositories designated by the <u>board, except</u> that:

(1) bond proceeds and money pledged to pay bonds, the extent provided in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds, or the trust indenture securing the bonds, may be deposited with another depository or trustee named in the proceedings or trust indenture; and
(2) money shall be remitted to each paying agent for

the payment of principal of and interest on the bonds.

Sec. 9601.153. INVESTMENT OF DISTRICT MONEY. 4-68 (a) Chapter Government Code, applies to the district and the investment 4-69

of district funds and funds under district control

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(b) The board may invest bond proceeds in a manner determined by the board or in the manner permitted or required in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds or in the trust indenture securing the bonds.

Sec. 9601.154. DISTRICT FACILITIES EXEMPT FROM TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT. The district is not required to pay a tax or assessment on its facilities or any part of its facilities.

[Sections 9601.155-9601.200 reserved for expansion]

SUBCHAPTER E. BONDS

AUTHORITY TO ISSUE BONDS. (a) The district 9601.201. by resolution may authorize the issuance of bonds payable from and secured by revenue or any other available source of district money to carry out a power conferred by this chapter. Bonds issued by the district are not a direct obligation of any member.

(b) The bonds must be issued in the manner

and under the terms of the proceedings authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

Bonds may be issued by the district without an election.

(d) Sections 49.181-49.186, Water Code, do not apply to the district.

Sec. 9601.202. FORM OF BONDS. District bonds must be:

(1) is sued in the district's name; and

signed by the officers of the district accordance with the proceedings authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

9601.203. MATURITY. District bonds must mature not Sec. later than 50 years after the date of their issuance.

Sec. 9601.204. BONDS SECURED BY REVENUE; ADDITIONAL BONDS. (a) Bonds may be secured by a pledge of all or part of the district's revenue, or by all or part of the payments or rentals under one or more contracts or leases specified by the proceedings authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

(b) The proceedings authorizing the issuance secured by a pledge of revenue of all or part of the district's facilities may provide that the district shall first pay the expenses of operating and maintaining all or part of the facilities as the board considers appropriate before paying the principal of and interest on the bonds.

(c) In the proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds secured by revenue, contract payments, or lease rentals, the district may reserve the right, under conditions specified by the proceedings, to issue additional bonds that will be on a parity

with, superior to, or subordinate to the bonds then being issued.

Sec. 9601.205. ADDITIONAL SECURITY. (a) At the discretion of the board, bonds may be additionally secured by a deed of trust or mortgage lien on all or part of the district's physical property, facilities, easements, water rights and appropriation permits, leases, contracts, and all rights appurtenant to the property, vesting in the trustee power to:

(1) sell the property for the payment of the bonds;
(2) operate the property; and
(3) take other action to further secure the bonds.

A purchaser under a sale under the deed of trust lien, if (b) one is given, is:

the absolute owner of the property, facilities, and rights purchased; and

(2) entitled to maintain and operate the property, facilities, and rights.

Sec. 9601.206. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY. (a) In connection with the issuance of bonds, the board may:
(1) prescribe the maximum principal amount of bonds to

be issued and the maximum rate of interest the bonds may bear;

to be issued; (2) recite the public purpose for which the bonds are

(3) delegate to any officer or employee district the authority to effect the sale of the bonds; and the

(4) determine the period during which the delegation authority under Subdivision (3) may be exercised.

(b) In exercising the authority delegated by the board to an

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officer or employee, the officer or employee may establish the terms and details related to the issuance and sale of the bonds, 6-1 6-2 including: 6-3 6-4

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the form and designation of the bonds;

- the principal amount of the bonds and the amount of (2) the bonds to mature in each year;
- (3) the dates, price, interest rates, interest payment principal payment dates, and redemption features of the bonds;
- (4) the execution of agreements determined by the officer or employee to be necessary in connection with the issuance of the bonds; and
- any other details relating to the issuance and sale of the bonds as specified by the board in the proceedings authorizing the <u>issuance of the bonds</u>.
- (c) A finding or determination made by an officer employee acting under the authority delegated to the officer or employee has the same force and effect as a finding or determination
- made by the board.
 Sec. 9601.207. Sec. 9601.207. TRUST INDENTURE. District bonds authorized this chapter, including refunding bonds, may be additionally secured by a trust indenture. The trustee may be a bank with trust powers that is located inside or outside the state.
- Sec. 9601.208. CREDIT AGREEMENT. In connection with the issuance of bonds under this chapter, the board may exercise the authority granted to the governing body of an issuer with regard to the execution and delivery of a credit agreement under Chapter 1371, Government Code.
- Sec. 9601.209. CHARGES FOR DISTRICT SERVICES. If bonds payable wholly from revenue are issued, the board shall set and revise the rates, fees, and charges assessed for water sold, waste collection and treatment services provided, and garbage collection services provided by the district. The rates, fees, and charges must be sufficient to:
- (1) pay the expense of operating and maintaining the district facilities that generate the revenue from which the bonds may or will be paid;
- (2) pay the principal of and interest on the bonds when due; and
- (3) maintain the reserve fund and other funds as provided in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds or the trust indenture securing the bonds.
- Sec. 9601.210. STATE PLEDGE REGARDING RIGHTS AND REMEDIES OF BONDHOLDERS. Without depriving this state of its power to regulate and control the rates, fees, and charges assessed for water sold and waste collection and treatment services provided by the district, the state pledges to and agrees with the holders of district bonds that the state will not exercise its power to regulate and control the rates, fees, and charges in any way that would impair the rights or remedies of the holders of the bonds.

 Sec. 9601.211. USE OF BOND PROCEEDS. In addition to the
- permitted use of bond proceeds provided by general law, the district may use proceeds from the sale of bonds:
- (1) for the payment of interest on the bonds while the project or facility is being acquired or constructed and for year after it is acquired or constructed;
- (2) for the operation and maintenance of the project facility during the estimated period of acquisition or construction of the project or facility and for one year after it is acquired or constructed;
 (3) for a debt service reserve fund;

- (4) for other funds as may be provided in the proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds or in the trust indenture securing the bonds;
- (5) to pay any expense necessarily incurred accomplishing the purpose of the district, including any expense of issuing and selling the bonds; and
- (6) to pay any costs incurred under the terms of a 6-68 6-69 credit agreement.

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ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE DEBT SERVICE 9601.212. RESERVE. (a) The board may provide that in lieu of or in addition to providing for the funding of a debt service reserve fund with cash, a line or letter of credit or an insurance policy may be used for the debt service reserve fund.

(b) Any agreement under which a line or letter of credit or insurance policy is provided must be submitted to the attorney general for examination and approval. After approval, the agreement is incontestable in any court or other forum for any reason and is a valid and binding obligation of the district in accordance with its terms for all purposes.

Sec. 9601.213. REFUNDING BONDS. (a) The district may issue refunding bonds to refund all or part of its outstanding bonds issued under this chapter, including matured but unpaid interest and obligations incurred under a credit agreement.

(b) Refunding bonds may be issued in the manner provided by

Chapter 1207, Government Code.

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Sec. 9601.214. REMEDIES AND COVENANTS. The proceedings authorizing the issuance of any bonds authorized under this chapter, including refunding bonds, the execution of a trust indenture securing the bonds, and the execution of a credit agreement, may provide other remedies and covenants the board considers necessary to issue the bonds on terms the board

determines to be most favorable to the district.

Sec. 9601.215. LIMITATION ON RIGHTS OF BONDHOLDERS. The proceedings authorizing the issuance of bonds or the trust indenture securing the bonds may limit or qualify the rights of the holders of less than all of the outstanding bonds payable from the same source to institute or prosecute litigation affecting the

district's property or income.

Sec. 9601.216. BONDS EXEMPT FROM TAXATION. Payments made by the district in connection with the issuance of bonds, the transfer of any bond, and the income from any bond, including profits made on the sale of any bond, are exempt from taxation in

this state.

Sec. 9601.217. APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVER. On <u>default or</u> (a) threatened default in the payment of the principal of or interest on obligations incurred by the district in connection with the issuance of bonds that are payable wholly or partly from revenue, a court may, on petition of the holders of at least 25 percent of the district's outstanding revenue bonds, or the party to a credit agreement, appoint a receiver for the district.

(b) The receiver may collect and receive all district revenue, employ and discharge district agents and employees, take charge of money on hand, and manage the district's proprietary affairs without the consent of or hindrance by the board.

(c) The receiver may be authorized to sell or contract for the sale of water, the collection or treatment of waste, or the provision of garbage collection or disposal services, or to renew contracts with the approval of the court that appointed the receiver.

(d) The court may vest the receiver with any other power or duty the court finds necessary to protect the holders of the bonds

or the party to a credit agreement.

SECTION 2. (a) The legal notice of the intention to introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies, officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313, Government Code.

The governor has submitted the notice and Act to the (b) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives within the required time.

All requirements of the constitution and laws of this (d) state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect

 $$\rm S.B.\ No.\ 1223$ to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled 8-1

8-2 and accomplished.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009. 8-3 8-4 8**-**5 8**-**6 8-7

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