

By: Lucio III, Creighton, Branch, Bohac

H.B. No. 451

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of a Don't Mess with Texas Water program to
3 prevent illegal dumping that affects the surface waters of this
4 state.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 26, Water Code, is amended
7 by adding Section 26.053 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 26.053. DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS WATER PROGRAM. (a) The
9 commission by rule shall establish a program to prevent illegal
10 dumping that affects the surface waters of this state by placing
11 signs on major highway water crossings that notify drivers of a
12 toll-free number to call to report illegal dumping.

13 (b) The commission shall establish a toll-free number
14 hotline that will forward calls to the appropriate law enforcement
15 agency.

16 (c) A local government may work with the commission to
17 participate in the program. A local government that participates
18 in the program may contribute to the cost of operating the toll-free
19 number hotline.

20 (d) The Texas Department of Transportation shall cooperate
21 with the commission in the placement of signs described by
22 Subsection (a).

23 (e) The Texas Department of Transportation shall post a sign
24 that complies with program requirements at a major highway water

1 crossing at the time a previously posted sign identifying the
2 crossing or prohibiting dumping at the crossing is scheduled to be
3 replaced.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.