

By: Gutierrez

H.B. No. 1487

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a study comparing the effects on retail water and sewer
3 utility service rates of acquiring by certain means additional
4 water for Bexar County retail water and sewer utility service
5 consumers.

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

7 SECTION 1. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
8 shall conduct a study to determine the comparative projected
9 effects on the rates paid by retail water and sewer utility service
10 consumers in Bexar County for water utility services in Bexar
11 County if 40,000 acre-feet per year of additional water supplies
12 were made available to those consumers by:

13 (1) desalinization of groundwater from sources inside
14 the county;

15 (2) transportation by pipelines of surface water from
16 a source or sources located east of that county; and

17 (3) transportation by pipelines of surface water from
18 a source or sources located west of that county.

19 SECTION 2. In conducting the study, the Texas Commission on
20 Environmental Quality shall consider all likely costs to a Bexar
21 County retail water and sewer utility services provider of making
22 the specified amount of water available by each of the means
23 described by Section 1 of this Act, including costs related to
24 acquiring necessary permits, capital or maintenance costs for

1 infrastructure, state and federal taxes, and costs of acquiring and
2 transporting the water for consumers' use.

3 SECTION 3. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
4 shall consult with the Texas Water Development Board to the extent
5 that board may provide useful information, expertise, or resources
6 to further the study. The Texas Water Development Board shall
7 undertake to assist the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
8 regarding any request for assistance with the study, to the extent
9 the assistance is within the board's authority.

10 SECTION 4. Not later than December 1, 2012, the Texas
11 Commission on Environmental Quality shall:

12 (1) publish the results of the study required by this
13 Act on the commission's publicly available Internet website; and

14 (2) deliver the results of the study required by this
15 Act to:

16 (A) the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
17 speaker of the house of representatives, and each committee of each
18 house of the legislature that has jurisdiction over water resources
19 or water utilities; and

20 (B) the Commissioners Court of Bexar County.

21 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.