

By: Estes

S.B. No. 691

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the exemption from permitting by groundwater  
3 conservation districts for certain water wells used for domestic,  
4 livestock, and poultry watering purposes.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subsection (b), Section 36.117, Water Code, is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (b) A district may not require any permit issued by the  
9 district for:

10 (1) a well used solely for domestic use, or for  
11 providing water for livestock or poultry, if the well is:

12 (A) located on a tract of land larger than 10  
13 acres; and

14 (B) [that is] either drilled, completed, or  
15 equipped so that it is incapable of producing more than 25,000  
16 gallons of groundwater a day;

17 (2) the drilling of a water well used solely to supply  
18 water for a rig that is actively engaged in drilling or exploration  
19 operations for an oil or gas well permitted by the Railroad  
20 Commission of Texas provided that the person holding the permit is  
21 responsible for drilling and operating the water well and the well  
22 is located on the same lease or field associated with the drilling  
23 rig; or

24 (3) the drilling of a water well authorized under a

1 permit issued by the Railroad Commission of Texas under Chapter  
2 134, Natural Resources Code, or for production from such a well to  
3 the extent the withdrawals are required for mining activities  
4 regardless of any subsequent use of the water.

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