

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 3, 2011

TO: Honorable Allan Ritter, Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources

FROM: John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB3194 by Martinez Fischer (Relating to the renewal or amendment of permits issued by groundwater conservation districts.), **As Introduced**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Water Code to require a groundwater and conservation district to renew a permit at the end of the permit term without a hearing, and to consider an application to amend a permit if the permit has not changed the point of withdrawal, place or purpose of use, or permitted rate and amount of groundwater withdrawal.

The bill also would authorize a district to amend an operating permit to adjust the amount or rate of authorized withdrawals by not more than five percent, based on a finding and supported by evidence submitted to the general manager of the district.

Local Government Impact

There could be fiscal impact to a district, but the amounts would vary depending on current procedures and a district's budget.

According to information provided by several districts, if a district were required to hold a public hearing, the cost could be more than \$12,000 per hearing which would be a significant portion of the current budgets (\$25,000 to \$100,000). In addition, while the five percent change to a permit would not result in increased costs, it could dramatically affect the amount of water that would be available.

Source Agencies:

LBB Staff: JOB, SZ, TP