

By: Johnson

H.B. No. 2616

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to establish uniform restrictions on the use of water during a drought.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11.1272, Water Code, is amended by adding Subsections (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(f) The commission shall by rule:

(1) establish uniform stages of drought response, including measures to be implemented during each stage; and

(2) designate the types of entities that must incorporate the drought response stages in their drought contingency plans.

(g) A wholesale or retail public water supplier or irrigation district that the commission requires by rule to incorporate drought response stages in its drought contingency plan shall establish criteria for the initiation and termination of a drought response stage in the service area of the supplier or district.

(h) A wholesale or retail public water supplier or irrigation district may not adopt drought response stages other than the stages established by commission rule.

SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2014, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality shall adopt rules to implement

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1 Section 11.1272, Water Code, as amended by this Act.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.