

By: Burkett

H.B. No. 3119

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to contingent fee contracts for representation of local governments in certain environmental enforcement actions.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 7, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 7.359 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.359. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONTINGENT FEE CONTRACTS. A local government that is a public agency as defined by Section 30.003 may not enter into a contingent fee contract as described by Section 2254.101, Government Code, for legal services associated with a civil suit brought under this subchapter.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a civil suit under Subchapter H, Chapter 7, Water Code, that is filed on or after the effective date of this Act. A civil suit filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the suit was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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