

By: King of Taylor

H.B. No. 3167

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to water programs administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the Texas Water Development Board.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Q, Chapter 15, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 15.982 to read as follows:

Sec. 15.982. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (a) In addition to using the fund for the other purposes authorized by this subchapter, the board may use the fund to provide technical or financial assistance to an eligible political subdivision for a project designed to alleviate a severe water shortage affecting the political subdivision that is caused by an emergency condition such as a drought or public calamity.

(b) To be eligible to receive technical or financial assistance under this section, an eligible political subdivision must apply to the board and provide to the board evidence that the political subdivision is affected by a severe water shortage that is caused by an emergency condition such as a drought or public calamity.

(c) The board shall expedite review of an application the board receives under this section.

(d) The board shall coordinate with the commission, the Department of Agriculture, and any other agency as necessary to implement this section.

1 (e) The board may provide technical or financial assistance
2 under this section for a project regardless of whether the project
3 is recommended through the state and regional water planning
4 processes under Sections 16.051 and 16.053.

5 SECTION 2. (a) The Texas Water Development Board and the
6 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality shall jointly:

7 (1) conduct a study regarding:

8 (A) streamlining the application and permitting
9 processes described by Chapters 15, 16, and 17, Water Code, for
10 water projects that the Texas Water Development Board has
11 determined are priority projects; and

12 (B) the feasibility and desirability of
13 requiring a state agency to:

14 (i) compile state and federal permitting
15 requirements applicable to applicants for financial assistance or
16 permits for water projects described by Chapters 15, 16, and 17,
17 Water Code; and

18 (ii) provide to the applicants a
19 description or list of the requirements; and

20 (2) conduct a study regarding the effect of the repeal
21 of provisions of the Wagstaff Act, Chapter 128 (S.B. 93), General
22 Laws, Acts of the 42nd Legislature, Regular Session, 1931, and the
23 feasibility and desirability of reenacting any of those provisions.

24 (b) The Texas Water Development Board shall submit a report
25 on the results of the studies required by this section to the
26 lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives
27 not later than September 1, 2014.

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