

AN ACT

relating to interbasin transfers of state water.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 11.085(b), (e), (g), (l), (n), and (v), Water Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The application must include:

(1) the contract price of the water to be transferred;

(2) a statement of each general category of proposed use of the water to be transferred and a detailed description of the proposed uses and users under each category; and

(3) the cost of diverting, conveying, distributing, and supplying the water to, and treating the water for, the proposed users[~~, and~~

~~[(4) the projected effect on user rates and fees for each class of ratepayers].~~

(e) In addition to the public meetings required by Subsection (d) [~~of this section~~], if the application is contested in a manner requiring an evidentiary hearing under the rules of the commission, the commission shall give notice and hold an evidentiary hearing, in accordance with commission rules and applicable state law. An evidentiary hearing on an application to transfer water authorized under an existing water right is limited to considering issues related to the requirements of this section.

(g) The applicant shall cause the notice of application for

1 an interbasin transfer to be published in two different weeks
2 within a 30-day period [~~once a week for two consecutive weeks~~] in
3 one or more newspapers having general circulation in each county
4 located in whole or in part in the basin of origin or the receiving
5 basin. The published notice may not be smaller than 96.8 square
6 centimeters or 15 square inches with the shortest dimension at
7 least 7.6 centimeters or three inches. The notice of application
8 and public meetings shall be combined in the mailed and published
9 notices.

10 (1) The commission may grant, in whole or in part, an
11 application for an interbasin transfer only to the extent that:

12 (1) the detriments to the basin of origin during the
13 proposed transfer period are less than the benefits to the
14 receiving basin during the proposed transfer period, as determined
15 by the commission based on consideration of the factors described
16 by Subsection (k); and

17 (2) the applicant for the interbasin transfer has
18 prepared a drought contingency plan and has developed and
19 implemented a water conservation plan that will result in the
20 highest practicable levels of water conservation and efficiency
21 achievable within the jurisdiction of the applicant.

22 (n) If the transfer of water is based on a contractual sale
23 of water, the new water right or amended permit, certified filing,
24 or certificate of adjudication authorizing the transfer shall
25 contain a condition for a term or period not greater than the term
26 of the contract, including any extension or renewal of the contract
27 [~~term~~].

1 (v) The provisions of this section, except Subsection (a),
2 do not apply to:

3 (1) a proposed transfer which in combination with any
4 existing transfers totals less than 3,000 acre-feet of water per
5 annum from the same permit, certified filing, or certificate of
6 adjudication;

7 (2) a request for an emergency transfer of water;

8 (3) a proposed transfer from a basin to its adjoining
9 coastal basin;

10 (4) a proposed transfer from the part of the
11 geographic area of ~~[a basin to]~~ a county or municipality, or the
12 part of the retail service area of a retail public utility as
13 defined by Section 13.002, ~~[the municipality's retail service area]~~
14 that is ~~[partially]~~ within the basin of origin for use in that part
15 of the geographic area of the county or municipality, or that
16 contiguous part of the retail service area of the utility, ~~[and the~~
17 ~~municipality's retail service area]~~ not within the basin of origin;
18 or

19 (5) a proposed transfer of water that is:

20 (A) imported from a source located wholly outside
21 the boundaries of this state, except water that is imported from a
22 source located in the United Mexican States;

23 (B) for use in this state; and

24 (C) transported by using the bed and banks of any
25 flowing natural stream located in this state.

26 SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to
27 an application for an interbasin transfer filed with the Texas

1 Commission on Environmental Quality on or after the effective date
2 of this Act. An application filed before the effective date of this
3 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the application was
4 filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3233 was passed by the House on May 7, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3233 was passed by the Senate on May 21, 2013, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor