

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**April 1, 2013**

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

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB2046** by Workman (Relating to a study evaluating and making recommendations for wastewater management in the contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.), **As Introduced**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

The bill would require the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to do a study to evaluate wastewater management in the contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The bill would require the study to evaluate the effects of wastewater management on the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer's contributing zone, the designated uses of the receiving streams, and the potential expansion of potable groundwater supplies in the Edwards Aquifer. The bill also would require the study to evaluate treatment technologies and methods to provide effluent quality that: (1) meets state primary and secondary drinking water standards; (2) does not have adverse toxic effects on aquatic life; (3) does not have adverse toxic effects on humans consuming the aquatic life, drinking the water, or recreating in the receiving stream; and (4) does not alter the nutrient concentrations in the receiving water during non-storm flow conditions. Additionally, the bill would require the study to assess whether the effluent quality may be sufficient to provide additional potable water to groundwater users.

The bill would require the TCEQ to report its findings and recommendations regarding narrative and numeric criteria for discharge, dispersal or reuse of wastewater, and wastewater treatment and management methods to meet the above criteria by September 30, 2015. The bill requires that proposed rules be developed by March 31, 2016.

The bill does not make an appropriation, but the bill stipulates that funding for the study may be derived from gifts, grants, or donations. Any funding for the study would need to be received by the TCEQ and dedicated for the study by December 31, 2013. The agency would determine the scope of the study based upon the funding that is available. If no funding is available, it would not be mandatory that the agency conduct the study.

Because the agency's costs related to the study proposed by the bill would be limited to amounts received from grants, gifts, and donations, passage of the bill is not expected to have a significant fiscal impact to the TCEQ.

**Local Government Impact**

Because the bill would not have statewide impact on units of local government of the same type or class, no comment from this office is required by the rules of the House/Senate as to its probable fiscal implication on units of local government.

**Source Agencies:** 582 Commission on Environmental Quality

**LBB Staff:** UP, SZ, TL