

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 7, 2013

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

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB2740** by Martinez Fischer (Relating to the renewal or amendment of permits issued by groundwater conservation districts.), **As Introduced**

No fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend Chapter 36 of the Water Code to specify procedures regarding renewal or permit amendments issued by a groundwater and conservation district. After notice and hearing conducted, a district could amend an operating permit to adjust the amount or rate of authorized withdrawals by not more than five percent, based on a finding and supported by evidence submitted by the general manager of the district that a significant change in aquifer conditions justifies the amendment. A district that amends an operating permit must similarly amend all operating permits that are affected by the change in aquifer conditions.

Local Government Impact

There could be fiscal impact to a district to hold a public hearing that would vary depending on current procedures and a district's budget. Costs to hold a public hearing are an estimated \$12,000 which could be a significant portion of a district's current budget which may range from \$25,000 to \$100,000. In addition, while the five percent change to a permit would not result in increased costs, it could affect the amount of water that would be available.

Source Agencies: 592 Soil and Water Conservation Board

LBB Staff: UP, SZ, TP