

AN ACT

relating to interstate cooperation to address regional water issues.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 8, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 8. SOUTHWESTERN STATES WATER [~~MULTI-STATE WATER RESOURCES PLANNING~~] COMMISSION

SECTION 2. Section 8.001(1), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) "Commission" means the Southwestern States Water [~~Multi-State Water Resources Planning~~] Commission.

SECTION 3. Section 8.011, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.011. CREATION OF COMMISSION. The Southwestern States Water [~~Multi-State Water Resources Planning~~] Commission is created as an advisory commission to the governor and the legislature [~~agency of the state~~].

SECTION 4. Section 8.013, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8.013. COMMISSIONERS [~~MEMBERS OF COMMISSION~~]; APPOINTMENT. (a) The commission is composed of three [~~seven~~] commissioners as follows:

(1) [~~who are appointed by~~] the governor or the

1 governor's designee;

2 (2) a member of the standing committee of the house of  
3 representatives that has jurisdiction over natural resources,  
4 appointed by the governor; and

5 (3) a member of the standing committee [~~with the~~  
6 ~~advice and consent~~] of the senate that has jurisdiction over water  
7 issues, appointed by the governor.

8 (b) The governor or the governor's designee shall act as the  
9 official representative of this state on the commission and shall  
10 exercise all powers and duties of this state as a member of the  
11 commission [~~make the appointments so that each member is from a~~  
12 ~~different section of the state~~].

13 [~~(c) Three commissioners must be members of the general~~  
14 ~~public, one commissioner must have a background in the field of~~  
15 ~~higher education, one commissioner must have a background in~~  
16 ~~private business, one commissioner must have a background in~~  
17 ~~agriculture, and one commissioner must have a background in an~~  
18 ~~energy-related field.~~]

19 SECTION 5. Section 8.015, Water Code, is amended to read as  
20 follows:

21 Sec. 8.015. TERMS [~~OF OFFICE~~]. (a) The two appointed  
22 commissioners serve [~~Commissioners hold office for~~] staggered  
23 terms of four [~~six~~] years, with the term [~~terms~~] of one appointed  
24 commissioner [~~two or three commissioners~~] expiring on February 1 of  
25 each odd-numbered year.

26 (b) Each appointed commissioner serves [~~holds office~~] until  
27 the commissioner's [~~his~~] successor is appointed [~~and has qualified~~

1 ~~for office]~~.

2 (c) A [~~If a~~] vacancy in an appointed position on the  
3 commission [~~occurs in the office of commissioner, the governor~~]  
4 shall be filled [~~appoint a successor to serve~~] for the unexpired  
5 portion of the term in the same manner as the original appointment.

6 SECTION 6. Section 8.016, Water Code, is amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 Sec. 8.016. CHAIRMAN. The governor or the governor's  
9 designee shall serve [~~designate one commissioner~~] as chairman of  
10 the commission [~~to serve at the will of the governor~~].

11 SECTION 7. Section 8.017(c), Water Code, is amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 (c) The chairman or two commissioners may call a special  
14 meeting at any time by giving notice to the other commissioner or  
15 commissioners.

16 SECTION 8. Section 8.019, Water Code, is amended to read as  
17 follows:

18 Sec. 8.019. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT [~~STAFF~~]. The board  
19 shall provide administrative [~~necessary staff and~~] support to the  
20 commission to assist the commission in carrying out this chapter.

21 SECTION 9. Section 8.051, Water Code, is amended to read as  
22 follows:

23 Sec. 8.051. INTERACTION WITH OTHER STATES. (a) In  
24 cooperation with representatives of neighboring states, the  
25 commission may discuss [~~shall study~~] the water needs of the region  
26 [~~after the year 2000~~].

27 (b) The commission may [~~shall~~] initiate and carry out

1 discussions with representatives of neighboring states relating to  
2 the identification and development of sources and methods of  
3 augmenting water supplies on a regional basis after existing water  
4 supplies are fully committed.

5 SECTION 10. Section 8.052, Water Code, is amended to read as  
6 follows:

7 Sec. 8.052. INTERACTION WITH MEXICO. The commission may  
8 [~~shall contract and~~] confer with the government of Mexico  
9 concerning water needs and development of sources of water supply.

10 SECTION 11. Section 8.056, Water Code, is amended to read as  
11 follows:

12 Sec. 8.056. COMPACTS. The commission may [~~shall~~] contact  
13 and negotiate with other states regarding the need for establishing  
14 interstate compacts, addressing groundwater problems, needs, and  
15 supplies, if an aquifer underlies several states, and addressing  
16 other related subjects that would be beneficial to the states  
17 including the conservation and beneficial use of water.

18 SECTION 12. Sections 8.014, 8.018, and 8.053, Water Code,  
19 are repealed.

20 SECTION 13. (a) Promptly after this Act takes effect, the  
21 governor shall appoint the initial appointed members of the  
22 Southwestern States Water Commission under Chapter 8, Water Code,  
23 as amended by this Act.

24 (b) In appointing the initial appointed members of the  
25 commission, the governor shall appoint one person to a term  
26 expiring February 1, 2017, and one person to a term expiring  
27 February 1, 2019.

1 SECTION 14. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 163 was passed by the House on April 16, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 163 on May 21, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 163 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor