

By: Larson

H.B. No. 163

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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 six [~~seven~~] commissioners. Two commissioners [~~who~~] are appointed by the governor, two commissioners are appointed by the lieutenant

1 governor, and two commissioners are appointed by the speaker of the
2 house of representatives [~~with the advice and consent of the~~
3 ~~senate~~].

4 [~~(b) The governor shall make the appointments so that each~~
5 ~~member is from a different section of the state.~~

6 [~~(c) Three commissioners must be members of the general~~
7 ~~public, one commissioner must have a background in the field of~~
8 ~~higher education, one commissioner must have a background in~~
9 ~~private business, one commissioner must have a background in~~
10 ~~agriculture, and one commissioner must have a background in an~~
11 ~~energy-related field.~~]

12 SECTION 5. Section 8.015, Water Code, is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 Sec. 8.015. TERMS [~~OF OFFICE~~]. (a) Commissioners serve
15 [~~hold office~~] for staggered terms of six years, with the terms of
16 two or three commissioners expiring on February 1 of each
17 odd-numbered year.

18 (b) Each commissioner serves [~~holds office~~] until the
19 commissioner's [~~his~~] successor is appointed [~~and has qualified for~~
20 ~~office~~].

21 (c) A [~~If a~~] vacancy on the commission [~~occurs in the office~~
22 ~~of commissioner, the governor~~] shall be filled [~~appoint a successor~~
23 ~~to serve~~] for the unexpired portion of the term in the same manner
24 as the original appointment.

25 SECTION 6. Section 8.019, Water Code, is amended to read as
26 follows:

27 Sec. 8.019. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT [~~STAFF~~]. The board

1 shall provide administrative [~~necessary staff and~~] support to the
2 commission to assist the commission in carrying out this chapter.

3 SECTION 7. Section 8.051, Water Code, is amended to read as
4 follows:

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

9 (b) The commission may [~~shall~~] initiate and carry out
10 discussions with representatives of neighboring states relating to
11 the identification and development of sources and methods of
12 augmenting water supplies on a regional basis after existing water
13 supplies are fully committed.

14 SECTION 8. Section 8.052, Water Code, is amended to read as
15 follows:

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

19 SECTION 9. Section 8.056, Water Code, is amended to read as
20 follows:

21 Sec. 8.056. COMPACTS. The commission may [~~shall~~] contact
22 and negotiate with other states regarding the need for establishing
23 interstate compacts, addressing groundwater problems, needs, and
24 supplies, if an aquifer underlies several states, and addressing
25 other related subjects that would be beneficial to the states
26 including the conservation and beneficial use of water.

27 SECTION 10. Sections 8.014, 8.018, and 8.053, Water Code,

1 are repealed.

2 SECTION 11. (a) Promptly after this Act takes effect, the
3 governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of
4 representatives shall appoint the initial members of the
5 Southwestern States Water Commission under Chapter 8, Water Code,
6 as amended by this Act.

7 (b) In appointing the initial members of the commission:

8 (1) the governor shall appoint one person to a term
9 expiring February 1, 2017, and one person to a term expiring
10 February 1, 2019;

11 (2) the lieutenant governor shall appoint one person
12 to a term expiring February 1, 2017, and one person to a term
13 expiring February 1, 2021; and

14 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives shall
15 appoint one person to a term expiring February 1, 2019, and one
16 person to a term expiring February 1, 2021.

17 SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.