

By: Ashby

H.B. No. 898

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the confidentiality of certain water well reports.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 36.111, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 36.111. RECORDS AND REPORTS; CONFIDENTIALITY.

SECTION 2. Section 36.111, Water Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) A groundwater withdrawal report submitted by the owner or operator of a privately owned water well to a district that requires withdrawal reporting under Subsection (b) is not subject to public disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code, if the owner or operator of the well submits a written request to the district in which the well is located to have the well's withdrawal reports treated as confidential information. A district that receives a request for confidentiality may release groundwater production information contained in the reports only if the information is summarized in a manner that prevents the identification of individual well owners or operators or the parcel of land on which a well is located. This subsection does not apply to a well that is owned or operated by a public entity, including a conservation and reclamation district operating under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, or a municipality.

SECTION 3. Section 36.111, Water Code, as amended by this

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1 Act, applies only to a water well withdrawal report required to be
2 filed with a groundwater conservation district on or after the
3 effective date of this Act.

4 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.