

By: Bell

H.B. No. 2532

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study on the effectiveness of regulations governing
3 the design and construction of certain Type I municipal solid waste
4 landfills overlying aquifers.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:

7 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on
8 Environmental Quality.

9 (2) "Landfill" means a Type I municipal solid waste
10 landfill:

11 (A) the entirety of which was designed and
12 constructed in accordance with regulatory standards effective on or
13 after October 9, 1993; and

14 (B) that is not adjacent to a landfill that was
15 designed and constructed in accordance with regulatory standards
16 effective before October 9, 1993.

17 (b) The commission shall conduct a study to determine the
18 effectiveness of the regulations governing the design and
19 construction of landfills located over aquifers in this state. The
20 study must:

21 (1) determine whether landfills located over aquifers
22 are leaking;

23 (2) based on a review of groundwater monitoring data
24 collected and reported by statewide landfill operators and any

1 other relevant information, determine if any leakage from landfills
2 built over aquifers has seeped into or contaminated the groundwater
3 underlying the landfills;

4 (3) include any recommendations necessary for
5 improving the effectiveness of the regulations governing the design
6 and construction of landfills located over aquifers, including
7 recommendations to:

8 (A) prevent or reduce leakage from landfills
9 overlying aquifers; and

10 (B) protect aquifers underlying the landfills;
11 and

12 (4) be submitted for independent peer review.

13 (c) The commission may work with other state agencies,
14 institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, private
15 organizations, or business entities to conduct the study.

16 (d) Not later than January 1, 2017, the commission shall
17 submit a report on the results and recommendations of the study to
18 the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
19 representatives, and the presiding officer of each standing
20 committee of the legislature with jurisdiction over environmental
21 matters.

22 (e) Applications and permits for Type I municipal solid
23 waste landfills may not be postponed or delayed pending the results
24 of the study.

25 SECTION 2. This Act expires August 31, 2017.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

H.B. No. 2532

1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.