

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 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 designed and constructed in accordance with regulatory
11 standards effective on or after October 9, 1993.

12 (b) The commission shall conduct a study to determine the
13 effectiveness of the regulations governing the design and
14 construction of landfills located over aquifers in this state. The
15 study must:

16 (1) determine whether landfills located over aquifers
17 are leaking;

18 (2) based on a review of groundwater monitoring data
19 collected and reported by statewide landfill operators and any
20 other relevant information, determine if any leakage from landfills
21 built over aquifers has seeped into or contaminated the aquifers
22 underlying the landfills;

23 (3) include any recommendations necessary for
24 improving the effectiveness of the regulations governing the design

1 and construction of landfills located over aquifers, including
2 recommendations to:

3 (A) prevent or reduce leakage from landfills
4 overlying aquifers; and

5 (B) protect aquifers underlying the landfills;
6 and

7 (4) be submitted for independent peer review.

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

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

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

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

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.