

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of an infrastructure improvement  
3 council by the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority; providing  
4 authority to impose a voluntary assessment.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 1.01, Chapter 385, Acts of the 78th  
7 Legislature, Regular Session, 2003, is amended by adding  
8 Subdivision (4-b) to read as follows:

9 (4-b) "Council" means the council established under  
10 Section 1B.01 of this Act.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 385, Acts of the 78th Legislature,  
12 Regular Session, 2003, is amended by adding Article IB to read as  
13 follows:

14 ARTICLE IB. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

15 Sec. 1B.01. INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL. (a) The  
16 board shall establish an infrastructure improvement council in  
17 connection with the implementation of infrastructure improvement  
18 projects within the authority's territory.

19 (b) The board shall set, according to a formula determined  
20 by the board, an annual voluntary assessment. Revenue from the  
21 assessment imposed under this subsection shall be deposited to the  
22 credit of an infrastructure improvement fund to be administered by  
23 the council. After the board sets the formula used to determine the  
24 assessment, the assessment may be modified only by the council.

1       (c) A member of the conference that pays the voluntary  
2 assessment under Subsection (b) shall appoint a representative to  
3 serve as a member of the council.

4       (d) The council may apply for financial assistance under  
5 Subchapters G and H, Chapter 15, Water Code, and may implement  
6 infrastructure improvement projects approved by the council under  
7 this article.

8       (e) The council shall study the viability of each  
9 infrastructure improvement project requested by council members to  
10 determine whether an infrastructure improvement project is  
11 eligible to receive financial assistance from the council.

12       (f) Only members of the council are eligible to receive  
13 financial assistance from the council for infrastructure  
14 improvement projects under this article.

15       (g) The council shall establish procedures to govern the  
16 council.

17       (h) The council may:

- 18               (1) hire employees to implement this section; and  
19               (2) engage in infrastructure improvement projects  
20 without board approval.

21       SECTION 3. 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. 3545 was passed by the House on April 23, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 138, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3545 on May 21, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 136, Nays 7, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3545 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

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Secretary of the Senate

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

Date

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Governor