

By: Landgraf

H.B. No. 3696

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing the Texas Water Research Program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 62.003(1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(1) Except as otherwise provided by Subchapters C, D, E, F, ~~and~~ G, and H, "eligible institution" means the eligible agencies and institutions of higher education listed in Article VII, Section 17(b), of the Constitution of Texas, and any institution or agency of higher education that is later made eligible to participate in the disbursement of funds pursuant to Article VII, Section 17(c), of the Constitution of Texas.

SECTION 2. Chapter 62, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter H to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER H. TEXAS WATER RESEARCH PROGRAM

Sec. 62.151. PURPOSE. The Texas Water Research Program is established to support and incentivize:

(1) research by eligible institutions regarding innovative water conservation and reuse programs aimed at increasing the viable water supply in this state and decreasing the cost of new technologies; and

(2) public policy research by eligible institutions on the existing water policy regulatory framework aimed at identifying and making recommendations for improvements and clarifications to

1 state law and administrative rules.

2 Sec. 62.152. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

3 (1) "Eligible institution" means an institution of  
4 higher education that:

5 (A) is designated as a research university or an  
6 emerging research university under the coordinating board's  
7 accountability system; or

8 (B) is determined by the Texas Water Development  
9 Board as having the ability to successfully complete a research  
10 proposal submitted for funding under the program.

11 (2) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning  
12 assigned by Section [61.003](#).

13 (3) "Program" means the Texas Water Research Program.

14 Sec. 62.153. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION. The coordinating  
15 board, in collaboration with the Texas Water Development Board,  
16 shall develop and administer the Texas Water Research Program in  
17 accordance with this subchapter to provide annual grants to  
18 eligible institutions for research proposals selected by the Texas  
19 Water Development Board as best serving the purposes of the  
20 program.

21 Sec. 62.154. FUNDING. (a) The program is funded from the  
22 amounts appropriated or transferred to the credit of the program  
23 under this section or other law.

24 (b) The coordinating board may accept gifts or grants from  
25 any public or private source for the program.

26 Sec. 62.155. RULES. (a) The coordinating board shall adopt  
27 rules for the administration of this subchapter.

1        (b) The Texas Water Development Board shall adopt rules for  
2 the merit-based selection by the board of grant recipients under  
3 the program, including rules establishing the metrics by which  
4 research proposals will be measured in that selection process.

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