

By: Uresti, Zaffirini

S.B. No. 1293

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the designation of certain river or stream segments as being of unique ecological value.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "Region L" means Regional Water Planning Area L designated in accordance with Section 16.053, Water Code, as the area's boundaries existed on September 1, 2015.

SECTION 2. DESIGNATION OF RIVER OR STREAM SEGMENTS OF UNIQUE ECOLOGICAL VALUE. The legislature, as authorized by Section 16.051(f), Water Code, designates as being of unique ecological value the following river or stream segments:

(1) the Nueces River from the northern boundary of Region L to United States Geological Survey gauge number 08190000;

(2) the Frio River from the northern boundary of Region L to United States Geological Survey gauge number 08195000;

(3) the Sabinal River from the northern boundary of Region L to its intersection with State Highway 187;

(4) the San Marcos River from a point 0.4 miles upstream from its intersection with State Highway Loop 82 to its intersection with Interstate Highway 35; and

(5) the Comal River from its intersection with East Klingemann Street in New Braunfels to its confluence with the Guadalupe River.

1           SECTION 3. EFFECT OF DESIGNATION. The designation of a  
2 river or stream segment as being of unique ecological value under  
3 Section 2 of this Act:

4           (1) means only that a state agency or political  
5 subdivision of the state may not finance the actual construction of  
6 a reservoir in the designated segment;

7           (2) does not affect the ability of a state agency or  
8 political subdivision of the state to construct, operate, maintain,  
9 or replace a weir, a water diversion, flood control, drainage, or  
10 water supply system, a low water crossing, or a recreational  
11 facility in the designated segment;

12           (3) does not prohibit the permitting, financing,  
13 construction, operation, maintenance, or replacement of any water  
14 management strategy to meet projected water supply needs  
15 recommended in, or designated as an alternative in, the 2011 or 2016  
16 Regional Water Plan for Region L; and

17           (4) does not alter any existing property right of an  
18 affected landowner.

19           SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
20 1, 2015.