By: Creighton, Nichols

S.C.R. No. 34

1 SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

- 2 WHEREAS, Among the most urgent issues facing Texas is the
- 3 recent prolonged drought that has resulted in a diminished
- 4 freshwater supply and the need to find alternative water sources;
- 5 and
- 6 WHEREAS, Montgomery County is one area that is facing special
- 7 difficulties in sustaining an adequate water supply, not only
- 8 because of the drought, but also because of its increasing
- 9 population, which grew by 9.5 percent between 2010 and 2013, and its
- 10 need to comply with a mandate to reduce usage of the Gulf Coast
- 11 Aquifer by 30 percent by the year 2016; and
- WHEREAS, Texas is estimated to have more than 2.7 billion
- 13 acre-feet of brackish groundwater, a crucial option for an
- 14 alternative water supply, and desalination techniques can reduce
- 15 the saline content of those brackish supplies to meet freshwater
- 16 standards; and
- 17 WHEREAS, The City of El Paso and Fort Bliss have established a
- 18 successful desalination program at the Kay Bailey Hutchison
- 19 Desalination Plant, which can produce up to 27.5 million gallons of
- 20 potable water each day from brackish water; employing a similar
- 21 desalination method, Montgomery County could replenish and
- 22 maintain a sufficient water supply through its access to brackish
- 23 groundwater sources; and
- 24 WHEREAS, Treating the abundance of brackish groundwater in

- 1 the area to comply with freshwater regulations has the potential to
- 2 provide Montgomery County residents with sufficient water
- 3 resources while alleviating pressure on freshwater resources, and
- 4 this innovative process is indeed deserving of further research;
- 5 now, therefore, be it
- 6 RESOLVED, That the 84th Legislature of the State of Texas
- 7 hereby direct the Texas Water Development Board to conduct a
- 8 feasibility study on the use of desalinated brackish groundwater
- 9 from brackish groundwater sources for water supply in Montgomery
- 10 County; and, be it further
- 11 RESOLVED, That this study be completed no later than January
- 12 1, 2018; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the board submit a full report, including its
- 14 findings and recommendations, to the 85th Texas Legislature, the
- 15 county judge of Montgomery County, and the county commissioners of
- 16 Montgomery County no later than June 1, 2018.