

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 19, 2015

TO: Honorable Charles Perry, Chair, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB928 by Guillen (relating to state and local planning for and responses to drought.),
Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would, among other provisions, partially implement recommendations in the report "Improve State and Local Drought Planning to More Effectively Manage Water Resources" in the Legislative Budget Board's Government Effectiveness and Efficiency Report, submitted to the Eighty-fourth Texas Legislature, 2015.

The bill would increase membership of the Water Conservation Advisory Council (WCAC) from 23 to 25 members and amend provisions related to terms of service. The bill would require WCAC to monitor and recommend strategies to respond to drought and recommend methodologies for conducting drought contingency plan evaluations. The bill amends provisions in the Texas Water Code related to drought contingency plans, providing that entities may review and update their drought contingency plan and submit the plan to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), as well as include an evaluation of the effectiveness of previously implemented drought strategies. Wholesale or retail public water suppliers would notify TCEQ not later than 5 business days after the supplier implements changes or ceases to implement mandatory provisions in their plan. Additional drought-related information would be posted on the TCEQ website. The bill would require the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), TCEQ, and WCAC to review and update the water conservation Best Management Practices Guide and to include best management practices for drought response.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 580 Water Development Board, 582 Commission on Environmental Quality

LBB Staff: UP, TL, SZ, JJ, PM