

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 84TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 19, 2015

TO: Honorable Jim Keffer, Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB2767** by Keffer (relating to the powers, duties, and administration of groundwater conservation districts; amending provisions that authorize fees.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Water Code relating to the powers, duties, and administration of groundwater conservation districts. The bill would amend the definition of "operating permit" and permit a groundwater district to impose certain fees for water exportation, administration, and production under certain circumstances. The bill would require a financial audit and other financial statements of the district to be performed in accordance with standards adopted by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Under the provisions of the bill, a county could pay costs and expenses occurred in the creation and organization of a district. The bill would permit the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to allocate funds to a district under certain circumstances.

Under the provisions of the bill, certain individuals could file a petition to the Texas Commission on Environment Quality (TCEQ) regarding the failure of a district's actions. Under certain conditions, TCEQ would be required to select a review panel in actions to take against a district. The bill would amend the provisions regarding the addition of land by petition of land by land owner, petition and the election or ratify the annexation of land. TWDB and TCEQ indicate that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

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

Source Agencies: 212 Office of Court Administration, Texas Judicial Council, 304 Comptroller of Public Accounts, 580 Water Development Board, 582 Commission on Environmental Quality

LBB Staff: UP, EK, SZ, SD, AG, PM