

By: Larson

H.B. No. 277

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the duty of the Texas Water Development Board to conduct  
3 studies of and prepare and submit reports on aquifer storage and  
4 recovery.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 11.155, Water Code, is amended to read as  
7 follows:

8 Sec. 11.155. AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY REPORTS. (a) The  
9 board shall make studies, investigations, and surveys of the  
10 aquifers in the state as it considers necessary to determine the  
11 occurrence, quantity, quality, and availability of aquifers in  
12 which water may be stored and subsequently retrieved for beneficial  
13 use.

14 (b) The board, working with appropriate interested persons,  
15 including groundwater conservation districts, regional water  
16 planning groups, and potential sponsors of aquifer storage and  
17 recovery projects, shall:

18 (1) conduct studies of aquifer storage and recovery  
19 projects identified in the state water plan or by interested  
20 persons; and

21 (2) report the results of each study conducted under  
22 Subdivision (1) to regional water planning groups and interested  
23 persons.

24 (c) This subsection expires January 1, 2019. The board

1 shall:

2 (1) conduct a statewide survey of the most favorable  
3 areas for aquifer storage and recovery;

4 (2) prepare a report that includes an overview of the  
5 survey conducted under Subdivision (1); and

6 (3) not later than December 15, 2018, submit the  
7 report described by Subdivision (2) to the governor, lieutenant  
8 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. [~~The board~~  
9 ~~shall undertake the studies, investigations, and surveys in the~~  
10 ~~following order of priority:~~

11 [~~(1) areas designated by the commission as "priority~~  
12 ~~groundwater management areas" under Section 35.008; and~~

13 [~~(2) other areas of the state in a priority to be~~  
14 ~~determined by the board's ranking of where the greatest need~~  
15 ~~exists.]~~

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect December 1, 2017.