

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 98

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirements for newspaper notice of a public meeting on a permit issued under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 26, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 26.054 to read as follows:

Sec. 26.054. NEWSPAPER NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR NPDES PERMITS. Newspaper notice that is required for a public meeting regarding an NPDES permit must include, in addition to other applicable requirements, publication of the notice:

(1) in a publication that:

(A) is generally circulated in the municipality or county in which the facility is located or proposed to be located; and

(B) is published in a language taught in a bilingual education program required by Subchapter B, Chapter 29, Education Code, at the elementary or middle school nearest to the facility or proposed facility for which the permit is sought; or

(2) in Spanish in the same newspaper as the required notice if a program or publication described by Subdivision (1) does not exist.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to an application for a permit that is filed with the Texas Commission

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1 on Environmental Quality on or after the effective date of this Act.
2 An application for a permit filed before the effective date of this
3 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date of filing, and that
4 law is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.