

By: Springer

H.B. No. 965

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a retail public water utility to require an operator of a correctional facility to comply with water conservation measures.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 13, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 13.1461 to read as follows:

Sec. 13.1461. CORRECTIONAL FACILITY COMPLIANCE WITH CONSERVATION MEASURES. (a) This section applies only to a correctional facility operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or operated under contract with that department.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a retail public utility may require the operator of a correctional facility that receives retail water or sewer utility service from the retail public utility to comply with water conservation measures adopted or implemented by the retail public utility.

(c) A correctional facility is not required to comply with a water conservation measure under Subsection (b) if the operator of the correctional facility submits to the retail public utility a written statement from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice that states that the measure would endanger health and safety at the facility or unreasonably increase the costs of operating the facility.

(d) If a retail public utility suspends a water conservation

1 measure and later implements the same measure, the operator of a
2 correctional facility that received an exemption from the original
3 measure under Subsection (c) must submit a new written statement
4 from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to obtain an
5 exemption under Subsection (c) from the newly implemented measure.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.