

By: Seliger

S.B. No. 821

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the qualifications for membership on the Texas Water Development Board.

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

SECTION 1. Section 6.052, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

(a) The board is composed of three members who are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate.

(a-1) One member appointed under Subsection (a) must:

(1) be actively engaged in the business of farming or animal husbandry or another business related to agriculture; and

(2) wholly or partly own or lease land used in connection with a business described by Subdivision (1).

(a-2) The remaining members appointed under Subsection (a) must have experience in at least one of the following fields, with one of those members having experience in a field that the other member does not have:

(1) [of] engineering;

(2) [~~one member must have experience in the field of~~] public or private finance; or

(3) [~~and one member must have experience in the field of~~] law or business.

(b) The governor shall make the appointments in such a

1 manner that the members:

2           (1) reflect the diverse geographic regions and  
3 population groups of this state, provided that one member resides  
4 in a rural area and is a registered voter of a county with a  
5 population of less than 355,000; and

6           (2) do not have any conflicts of interest prohibited  
7 by state or federal law.

8           SECTION 2. Section 6.054, Water Code, is amended by adding  
9 Subsection (e) to read as follows:

10           (e) Notwithstanding Subsection (a)(2), a board member who  
11 resided in a county with a population of less than 355,000 at the  
12 time the member was appointed may not be removed on the ground that  
13 the population of the county no longer meets that requirement.

14           SECTION 3. The changes in law made by this Act relating to  
15 the qualifications for membership on the Texas Water Development  
16 Board do not affect the eligibility of a member of the board serving  
17 immediately before the effective date of this Act to continue to  
18 serve on the board for the term to which the member was appointed.  
19 Not later than February 1, 2023, the governor shall appoint members  
20 of the board as necessary to ensure that the composition of the  
21 board complies with Section 6.052, Water Code, as amended by this  
22 Act.

23           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.