

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 1529

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the collection, analysis, and dissemination of
3 information regarding the availability and quality of the
4 groundwater resources in this state by the Geo-Technology Research
5 Institute.

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

7 SECTION 1. The heading to Section 149.004, Education Code,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 Sec. 149.004. DUTIES IN GENERAL.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 149, Education Code, is amended by
11 adding Section 149.0045 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 149.0045. COLLECTION, ANALYSIS, AND DISSEMINATION OF
13 INFORMATION REGARDING GROUNDWATER RESOURCES. (a) The institute
14 shall use data from the Texas Water Development Board, the Railroad
15 Commission of Texas, and the Bureau of Economic Geology of The
16 University of Texas at Austin to develop a three-dimensional model
17 of the availability and quality of the groundwater resources in
18 this state. The institute shall digitize data necessary to develop
19 the model, if necessary. Once developed, the institute shall run
20 the model and use the model run results to:

21 (1) develop a time-based representation of water level
22 and water yield declines in aquifers, including information on
23 production or injection well intervals in the aquifers studied; and

24 (2) identify favorable areas, including aquifers with

1 multiple zones, for aquifer storage and recovery projects and the
2 estimated storage capacity of those areas.

3 (b) The institute shall make the model run results described
4 by Subsection (a) available in software suitable for
5 three-dimensional visualization and volumetric analysis.

6 (c) Not later than September 1, 2019, the institute shall
7 develop and run a model described by Subsection (a) for the area
8 included in the following counties:

- 9 (1) Bastrop;
- 10 (2) Bell;
- 11 (3) Burnet;
- 12 (4) Coryell;
- 13 (5) Lampasas;
- 14 (6) McLennan;
- 15 (7) Travis; and
- 16 (8) Williamson.

17 (d) After developing and running the model for the area
18 described by Subsection (c), the institute shall develop and run
19 models for areas included in other counties in decreasing order of
20 importance, as determined by the institute from an analysis of
21 population projections and projected municipal water needs.

22 (e) For each area for which the institute completes the
23 development and running of a model, the institute shall conduct a
24 workshop in the area to provide information to groundwater
25 conservation districts located in the area, if applicable, on how
26 to use the model and the model run results to coordinate groundwater
27 management activities by those groundwater conservation districts.

1 (f) The institute shall create and maintain an online
2 geospatial information application to educate the public about the
3 effect of drought on groundwater quantity and quality.

4 (g) The institute shall assess trends in groundwater
5 quality during a known drought period selected by the institute to
6 determine how production affects groundwater quality and how those
7 effects vary geospatially.

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