

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 1597

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a requirement that the General Land Office conduct an  
3 evaluation and submit a report regarding the use of wind and solar  
4 power to desalinate brackish groundwater on real property owned by  
5 the state.

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

7 SECTION 1. DEFINITION. In this Act, "land office" means the  
8 General Land Office.

9 SECTION 2. EVALUATION. (a) The land office shall conduct  
10 an evaluation to identify:

11 (1) the economic potential for using wind and solar  
12 power to desalinate brackish groundwater on real property owned by  
13 the state; and

14 (2) possible pilot sites that have the best potential  
15 for the implementation of a pilot program for the purpose described  
16 by Subdivision (1) of this subsection.

17 (b) In conducting the evaluation, the land office shall:

18 (1) use information developed as a result of the study  
19 conducted under Chapter 620 (S.B. 991), Acts of the 84th  
20 Legislature, Regular Session, 2015; and

21 (2) consult with representatives of the private sector  
22 with expertise in the desalination of brackish groundwater and the  
23 generation of wind and solar power.

24 (c) In conducting the evaluation, the land office may:

- 1           (1) request data from any state agency; and  
2           (2) coordinate with a research division of a  
3 university.

4           (d) An agency or a research division that receives a request  
5 under Subsection (c) of this section shall provide the requested  
6 data or assistance.

7           (e) The evaluation shall include:

8           (1) recommendations for one or more possible pilot  
9 sites for the implementation of a pilot program for using wind and  
10 solar power to desalinate brackish groundwater on real property  
11 owned by the state;

12           (2) an evaluation of opportunities for the state to  
13 generate revenue from using wind and solar power for the purpose  
14 described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

15           (3) proposed strategies for using wind and solar power  
16 for the purpose described by Subdivision (1) of this subsection in  
17 an economically viable way.

18           SECTION 3. REPORT. (a) Not later than December 31, 2018,  
19 the land office shall report the results of the evaluation  
20 conducted under this Act to the governor and the legislature.

21           (b) The report described by this section may not disclose  
22 information that is excepted from the requirements of Section  
23 [552.021](#), Government Code.

24           SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
25 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
26 elected to each house, as provided by Section [39](#), Article III, Texas  
27 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for

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1 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.