

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.