By:  Birdwell S.B. No. 407

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the presiding officers of the boards of directors of river authorities.

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

SECTION 1.  Title 5, Water Code, is amended by designating Chapter 152 as Subtitle A and adding a subtitle heading to read as follows:

SUBTITLE A. RIVER AUTHORITIES

SECTION 2.  Subtitle A, Title 5, Water Code, as added by this Act, is amended by adding Chapter 150 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 150. PROVISIONS GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO RIVER AUTHORITIES

Sec. 150.0001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Board" means the board of directors of a river authority.

(2)  "River authority" means the San Antonio River Authority and a district:

(A)  created by the legislature under the authority of Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, as a regional water management entity to provide water development and planning services and other services to a river basin or portion of a river basin;

(B)  that contains one or more counties within its boundaries; and

(C)  governed by a board of directors appointed or designated wholly or partly by the governor.

Sec. 150.0002.  PRESIDING OFFICER. (a)  This section does not apply to a district with an entirely elected board or the Upper Neches River Municipal Water Authority.

(b)  The governor shall designate a member of the board of a river authority as the presiding officer of the board to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor.

SECTION 3.  (a)  In this section, "river authority" has the meaning assigned by Section 150.0001, Water Code, as added by this Act.

(b)  For each river authority for which the governor was not required to designate a presiding officer of the board of directors for that river authority before the effective date of this Act and for which the governor is required to designate a presiding officer under Section 150.0002, Water Code, as added by this Act, the governor shall designate a presiding officer of the board of directors of the river authority not later than January 31, 2020.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.