

By: Larson

H.B. No. 721

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duty of the Texas Water Development Board to conduct studies of and prepare and submit reports on aquifer storage and recovery.

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

SECTION 1. Section 11.155, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11.155. AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECOVERY REPORTS. (a) The board shall make studies, investigations, and surveys of the aquifers in the state as it considers necessary to determine the occurrence, quantity, quality, and availability of aquifers in which water may be stored and subsequently retrieved for beneficial use.

(b) The board, working with appropriate interested persons, including river authorities and major water providers and water utilities, regional water planning groups, and potential sponsors of aquifer storage and recovery projects, shall:

(1) conduct studies of aquifer storage and recovery projects identified in the state water plan or by interested persons; and

(2) report the results of each study conducted under Subdivision (1) to regional water planning groups and interested persons.

(c) This subsection expires January 1, 2021. The board

1 shall:

2 (1) conduct a statewide survey to identify the  
3 relative suitability of various major and minor aquifers for use in  
4 aquifer storage and recovery projects based on consideration of:

5 (A) hydrogeological characteristics, with a  
6 focus on:

7 (i) storage potential;

8 (ii) transmissivity;

9 (iii) storativity;

10 (iv) recoverability; and

11 (v) water quality;

12 (B) the frequency, volume, and distance from  
13 excess water available for potential storage; and

14 (C) the current and future water supply needs  
15 identified in the state water plan;

16 (2) prepare a report that includes an overview of the  
17 survey conducted under Subdivision (1); and

18 (3) not later than December 15, 2020, submit the  
19 report described by Subdivision (2) to the governor, lieutenant  
20 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives. [The board

21 ~~shall undertake the studies, investigations, and surveys in the~~  
22 ~~following order of priority:~~

23 ~~[(1) areas designated by the commission as "priority~~  
24 ~~groundwater management areas" under Section 35.008; and~~

25 ~~[(2) other areas of the state in a priority to be~~  
26 ~~determined by the board's ranking of where the greatest need~~  
27 ~~exists.]~~

1           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.