

By: Thompson of Brazoria

H.B. No. 1958

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the territory, powers, and administration of the Gulf  
3 Coast Water Authority.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 2 and 3, Chapter 712, Acts of the 59th  
6 Legislature, Regular Session, 1965, are amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 2. The District's territory is [~~District shall be~~  
8 ~~comprised of all of the territory contained within Galveston~~  
9 ~~County, Texas, and its boundaries shall be the same as and]~~  
10 coextensive with the boundaries of Brazoria, Fort Bend, and  
11 Galveston Counties [~~County, Texas~~].

12 Sec. 3. Except as expressly limited by this Act, the  
13 District shall have and exercise and is hereby vested with all  
14 rights, powers, privileges, and authority conferred by the General  
15 Laws of this State now in force or hereafter enacted applicable to  
16 municipal utility districts created under authority of Section 59  
17 of Article XVI, Constitution of Texas including without limitation  
18 those conferred by Chapters 49 and [~~Chapter~~] 54, Water Code, as  
19 amended, but to the extent that the provisions of such General Laws  
20 may be in conflict or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,  
21 the provisions of this Act shall prevail. All such General Laws are  
22 hereby adopted and incorporated by reference with the same effect  
23 as if incorporated in full in this Act. Without in any way limiting  
24 the generalization of the foregoing, it is expressly provided that

1 the District shall have, and is hereby authorized to exercise, the  
2 following rights, powers, privileges and functions:

3 (a) the power to make, construct, or otherwise acquire  
4 improvements either within or without the boundaries thereof  
5 necessary to carry out the powers and authority granted by this Act  
6 and said General Laws and to exercise the power of eminent domain  
7 for such purposes; provided, however, that the District shall not  
8 have the power of eminent domain as to all or any part of the water  
9 supply, property, works or facilities of any private person or  
10 persons, or of any private or public corporation or association  
11 engaged in the business of supplying water in Brazoria County, Fort  
12 Bend County, or Galveston County, Texas, to any class of consumers  
13 for any use upon the effective date of this Act, but this provision  
14 shall not restrict the power of the District to acquire necessary  
15 crossing easements and rights-of-way;

16 (b) to conserve, store, transport, treat and purify,  
17 distribute, sell and deliver water, both surface and underground,  
18 to persons, corporations, both public and private, political  
19 subdivisions of the State and others, and to purchase, construct or  
20 lease all property, works and facilities, both within and without  
21 the District, necessary or useful for such purposes;

22 (c) to acquire water supplies from sources both within or  
23 without the boundaries of the District and to sell, transport and  
24 deliver water to customers situated within or without the District  
25 and to acquire all properties and facilities necessary or useful  
26 for such purposes, and for any or all of such purposes to enter into  
27 contracts with persons, corporations, both public and private, and

1 political subdivisions of the State for such periods of time and on  
2 such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors may deem  
3 desirable;

4 (d) subject to the provisions of this Act, to sell, lease,  
5 or exchange any property of any kind, or any interest therein, which  
6 is not necessary to the carrying on of the business of the District  
7 or the sale, lease, or exchange of which, in the judgment of the  
8 Board of Directors, is necessary for the exercise of the powers,  
9 rights, privileges, and functions conferred upon the District by  
10 this Act or by Chapters 49 and [~~Chapter~~] 54, Water Code, as amended;

11 (e) subject to the provisions of this Act, to acquire by  
12 purchase, lease, gift, or otherwise, and to maintain, use, and  
13 operate any and all property of any kind, or any interest therein,  
14 within or without the boundaries of the District, necessary to the  
15 exercise of the powers, rights, privileges, and functions conferred  
16 by this Act or by Chapters 49 and [~~Chapter~~] 54, Water Code, as  
17 amended;

18 (f) to construct, extend, improve, maintain, and  
19 reconstruct, to cause to be constructed, extended, improved,  
20 maintained, and reconstructed, and to use and operate, any and all  
21 facilities of any kind necessary to the exercise of such powers,  
22 rights, privileges, and functions;

23 (g) to sue and be sued in its corporate name;

24 (h) to adopt, use, and alter a corporate seal;

25 (i) to invest and reinvest its funds;

26 (j) to make bylaws for management and regulation of its  
27 affairs;

1 (k) to appoint officers, agents, and employees, to  
2 prescribe their duties and fix their compensation;

3 (l) to make contracts and to execute instruments convenient  
4 or necessary to the exercise of the powers, rights, privileges, and  
5 functions conferred by this Act or Chapters 49 and [~~Chapter~~] 54,  
6 Water Code, as amended, for such term and with such provisions as  
7 the Board of Directors may determine to be in the best interests of  
8 the District, including, without in any way limiting the generality  
9 of the foregoing, contracts with persons including the State of  
10 Texas, the United States of America and any corporation or agency  
11 thereof and districts, cities, towns, persons, organizations,  
12 firms, corporations or other entities as the Board of Directors may  
13 deem necessary or proper for or in connection with any of its  
14 corporate purposes;

15 (m) to borrow money for its corporate purposes and, without  
16 limiting the generality of the foregoing, to borrow money, apply  
17 for and receive loans, and accept grants or contributions, directly  
18 or indirectly, from persons, including the State of Texas, the  
19 United States of America, or from any corporation, agency, or  
20 entity created or designated by the State of Texas or the United  
21 States of America, and in connection with any such loan, [or] grant,  
22 or contribution, to enter into such agreements as the State of  
23 Texas, the United States of America, or any such corporation,  
24 agency, or entity may require; and to make and issue its negotiable  
25 bonds or notes for money borrowed, in the manner and to the extent  
26 provided in this Act, and to refund or refinance any outstanding  
27 bonds, [or] notes, or loans, and to make and issue its negotiable

1 bonds or notes therefor in the manner provided in this Act.

2 SECTION 2. Chapter 712, Acts of the 59th Legislature,  
3 Regular Session, 1965, is amended by adding Sections 3B and 3C to  
4 read as follows:

5 Sec. 3B. (a) In this section, "person" includes an  
6 individual, entity, partnership, and corporation. The term does  
7 not include a political subdivision or public agency.

8 (b) Competitive bidding and contract procurement or  
9 delivery requirements otherwise applicable to the District do not  
10 apply to a contract or agreement made by the District with a person  
11 if:

12 (1) the contract or agreement relates to a project for  
13 the acquisition or construction of equipment or facilities for the  
14 production, treatment, transmission, or delivery of water; and

15 (2) payments made under the contract or agreement are  
16 for amounts substantially sufficient to finance a project described  
17 in Subdivision (1).

18 Sec. 3C. (a) The Board by resolution may authorize the  
19 creation of a nonprofit corporation to assist and act for the  
20 district in implementing a project or providing a service  
21 authorized by this chapter.

22 (b) The nonprofit corporation:

23 (1) has each power of and is considered to be a local  
24 government corporation created under Subchapter D, Chapter 431,  
25 Transportation Code; and

26 (2) may implement any project and provide any service  
27 authorized by this chapter.

1        (c) The Board shall appoint the board of directors of the  
2 nonprofit corporation. The board of directors of the nonprofit  
3 corporation shall serve at the will of the district and in the same  
4 manner as the board of directors of a local government corporation  
5 created under Subchapter D, Chapter 431, Transportation Code.

6        (d) The nonprofit corporation may not:

7                (1) exercise the powers of a municipality or county;

8                (2) participate in a project that the District is not  
9 authorized to participate in;

10               (3) impose taxes; or

11               (4) acquire, construct, or operate parks or  
12 recreational facilities.

13        SECTION 3. Sections 4(a), (c), and (f), Chapter 712, Acts of  
14 the 59th Legislature, Regular Session, 1965, are amended to read as  
15 follows:

16        (a) The District shall have no power or authority to levy  
17 and collect taxes on any property real, personal or mixed, within  
18 the boundaries of said District, nor shall the District have power  
19 or authority to issue bonds or create indebtedness which would in  
20 any way be payable from ad valorem taxes levied by the District upon  
21 property within said District; and provided further that said  
22 District shall have none of the powers conferred by General Law for  
23 the purposes of the collection, transportation, processing,  
24 disposal and control of domestic, industrial or communal wastes,  
25 and the gathering, conducting, directing and controlling of local  
26 storm waters, or other local harmful excesses of water except as  
27 directly related to the production and purification of water for

1 agricultural, municipal, or industrial purposes, including the  
2 ownership, lease, or operation of a municipal wastewater treatment  
3 facility in which the effluent is used by the District for water  
4 reuse supply.

5 (c) In the event that the District in the exercise of the  
6 power of eminent domain or power of relocation, or any other power  
7 granted hereunder, makes necessary the relocation, raising,  
8 rerouting or changing the grade of, or altering the construction  
9 of, any cemetery, highway, railroad, electric transmission line,  
10 telephone or telegraph properties and facilities, or pipeline, all  
11 such necessary relocation, raising, rerouting, changing of grade or  
12 alteration of construction shall be accomplished at the sole  
13 expense of the District. The term "sole expense" shall mean the  
14 actual cost of such relocation, raising, rerouting, or change in  
15 grade or alteration of construction in providing comparable  
16 replacement without enhancement of such facilities after deducting  
17 therefrom the net salvage value derived from the old facility.

18 (f) The powers, rights, privileges, and functions conferred  
19 upon the District shall be subject to the continuing rights of  
20 supervision by the State, [~~which shall be exercised by the Texas~~  
21 ~~Department of Water Resources, and the District shall obtain~~  
22 ~~approval of its projects and they shall be supervised]~~ as provided  
23 by the [~~Sections 54.516 and 54.517,~~] Water Code, as amended.

24 SECTION 4. Section 5, Chapter 712, Acts of the 59th  
25 Legislature, Regular Session, 1965, is amended to read as follows:

26 Sec. 5. (a) The management and control of the District is  
27 hereby vested in a Board of 10 directors.

1       (b) Each director must be a resident of this state.

2       (c) Vacancies on the Board of Directors, whether by death,  
3       resignation or termination of the term of office, shall be filled by  
4       appointment by the commissioners court that appointed the director  
5       for the unexpired term of the director.

6       (d) A director may be removed by the commissioners court  
7       that appointed the director for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or  
8       misconduct of office. The Board must provide a director removed  
9       under this section written notice not later than the 30th day after  
10       the date the decision to remove is made and an opportunity to be  
11       heard in person or by counsel in a public hearing.

12       (e) All terms of office shall be for a period of two (2)  
13       years. Terms shall be staggered ending on August 31 of the  
14       appropriate year.

15       (f) Six directors constitute a quorum. Except as otherwise  
16       provided, a majority of those directors present and qualified to  
17       vote is sufficient for final action on a matter before the Board.

18       SECTION 5. Chapter 712, Acts of the 59th Legislature,  
19       Regular Session, 1965, is amended by adding Sections 5C, 5D, 5E, 5F,  
20       and 5G to read as follows:

21       Sec. 5C. (a) Chapter 171, Local Government Code, does not  
22       apply to a director appointed to represent agricultural or  
23       industrial interests.

24       (b) A director who has a financial interest in a contract  
25       considered by the District for the purchase of property or the  
26       construction of a facility must disclose the interest to the other  
27       directors and may not vote on the contract.



1       Sec. 5D. (a) The Board may hold an open or closed meeting by  
2 telephone conference call if at least five directors are present at  
3 the location where the meeting of the Board is held. A meeting held  
4 by telephone conference call is subject to the same notice  
5 requirements as other Board meetings and must be recorded. Each  
6 person who speaks in a meeting held by telephone conference call  
7 must be clearly identified. A director participating in a meeting  
8 held by telephone conference call is considered absent from any  
9 part of the meeting during which audio communication is lost.

10       (b) The authority to hold a meeting held by telephone  
11 conference call described by this section is in addition to  
12 authority described by Chapter 551, Government Code.

13       Sec. 5E. If the Board employs a general manager, the general  
14 manager is the chief executive officer of the District.

15       Sec. 5F. The District is not required to provide notice for  
16 the sale or disposal of District personal property if the personal  
17 property has a value of less than \$25,000.

18       Sec. 5G. (a) The District may enter into a contract related  
19 to a water project located outside the District. The District may  
20 enter into a local agreement with a political subdivision for a  
21 purpose related to a water project.

22       (b) A contract under this section may use money appropriated  
23 by a political subdivision that is a party to the contract to pay  
24 for pre-development costs, engineering, surveys, and the  
25 collection and compilation of data relating to conditions  
26 influencing determinations about the character and extent of  
27 proposed improvements, works, and facilities for the

1 accomplishment of District purposes.

2 (c) The District may contract or agree with an entity  
3 appropriating money under this section to receive a loan or money  
4 from other sources in return for services described by Subsection  
5 (a). The contract or agreement may provide for the repayment by the  
6 District of money advanced as a loan from project revenues, bond  
7 proceeds, or other available money.

8 (d) The District and a state agency or political subdivision  
9 may enter into a contract to jointly pay all or part of the cost of a  
10 water project or the operation of a water project in the same way  
11 that a political subdivision may contract with a state agency or  
12 political subdivision under Chapter 472, Transportation Code, to  
13 jointly pay all or part of the cost associated with a state or local  
14 highway, turnpike, road, or street project.

15 SECTION 6. Sections 7 and 8, Chapter 712, Acts of the 59th  
16 Legislature, Regular Session, 1965, are amended to read as follows:

17 Sec. 7. The District shall have power and is hereby  
18 authorized to issue, from time to time, bonds as herein authorized  
19 for any of its corporate purposes. Such bonds may either be (1)  
20 sold for cash, at public or private sale, at such price or prices as  
21 the Board shall determine, provided that the net effective interest  
22 rate, calculated in accordance with Chapter 1204, Government Code  
23 ~~[3, Acts of the 61st Legislature, Regular Session, 1969, as amended~~  
24 ~~(Article 717k-2, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes), as now or~~  
25 ~~hereafter amended shall not exceed ten (10) percent], or (2) issued~~  
26 on such terms as the Board of Directors shall determine in exchange  
27 for property of any kind, real, personal or mixed or any interest

1 therein which the Board shall deem necessary for any such corporate  
2 purposes, or (3) issued in exchange for like principal amounts of  
3 other obligations of the District, matured or unmatured. The  
4 proceeds of sale of such bonds shall be deposited in such bank or  
5 banks or trust company or trust companies, and shall be paid out  
6 pursuant to such terms and conditions, as may be agreed upon between  
7 the District and the purchasers of such bonds. All such bonds shall  
8 be authorized by resolution or resolutions of the Board of  
9 Directors, and shall bear such date or dates, mature at such time or  
10 times, bear interest payable annually, semiannually, or otherwise,  
11 be in such denominations, be in such form, either coupon or  
12 registered, carry such registration privileges as to principal only  
13 or as to both principal and interest, and as to exchange of coupon  
14 bonds for registered bonds or vice versa, and exchange of bonds of  
15 one denomination for bonds of other denominations, be executed in  
16 such manner and be payable at such place or places within or without  
17 the State of Texas, as such resolution or resolutions may provide.  
18 Any resolution or resolutions authorizing any bonds may contain  
19 provisions, which shall be part of the contract between the  
20 District and the holders thereof from time to time:

21 (a) reserving the right to redeem such bonds or requiring  
22 the redemption of such bonds, at such time or times, in such amounts  
23 and at such prices, [~~not exceeding 105 percent of the principal~~  
24 ~~amount thereof, plus accrued interest,~~] as may be provided;

25 (b) providing for the setting aside of sinking funds or  
26 reserve funds and the regulation and disposition thereof;

27 (c) pledging to secure the payment of the principal of and

1 interest on such bonds and of the sinking fund or reserve fund  
2 payments agreed to be made in respect of such bonds all or any part  
3 of the gross or net revenues thereafter received by the District in  
4 respect of the property, real, personal, or mixed, to be acquired  
5 and/or constructed with such bonds or the proceeds thereof, or all  
6 or any part of the gross or net revenues thereafter received by the  
7 District from whatever source derived;

8 (d) prescribing the purposes to which such bonds or any  
9 bonds thereafter to be issued, or the proceeds thereof, may be  
10 applied;

11 (e) agreeing to fix and collect rates and charges sufficient  
12 to produce revenues adequate to pay (1) all expenses necessary to  
13 the operation and maintenance and replacements and additions to the  
14 properties and facilities of the District; (2) the principal of,  
15 and the interest and premium, if any, on bonds issued under this Act  
16 as and when the same became due and payable; (3) all sinking fund  
17 and/or reserve fund payments agreed to be made in respect of any  
18 such bonds out of such revenues as and when the same became due and  
19 payable, and to fulfill the terms of any agreements made with the  
20 holders of such bonds and/or with any person on their behalf and to  
21 discharge all other lawful obligations of the District as and when  
22 the same become due;

23 (f) prescribing limitations upon the issuance of additional  
24 bonds and subordinate lien bonds and upon the agreements which may  
25 be made with the purchasers and successive holders thereof;

26 (g) with regard to the construction, extension,  
27 improvement, reconstruction, operation, maintenance, and repair of

1 the properties of the District and carrying of insurance upon all or  
2 any part of said properties covering loss or damage or loss of use  
3 and occupancy resulting from specified risks;

4 (h) fixing the procedure, if any, by which, if the District  
5 shall so desire, the terms of any contract with the holders of such  
6 bonds may be amended or abrogated, the amount of bonds the holders  
7 of which must consent thereto, and the manner in which such consent  
8 may be given;

9 (i) for the execution and delivery by the District to a bank  
10 or trust company authorized by law to accept trusts, or to the  
11 United States of America or any officer or agency thereof, of  
12 indentures and agreements for the benefit of the holders of such  
13 bonds and such other provisions as may be customary in such  
14 indentures or agreements; and

15 (j) such other provisions, [~~not inconsistent with the~~  
16 ~~provisions of this Act,~~] as the Board may approve.

17 (k) The Board may declare an emergency in the matter of  
18 funds not being available to pay principal of and interest on any  
19 bonds of the District or to meet any other needs of the District and  
20 may issue bond anticipation notes or enter into a loan to pay the  
21 costs to meet the emergency need. A loan under this section may be  
22 payable from district revenues or the proceeds of a future series of  
23 bonds. Bond anticipation notes may bear interest at any rate or  
24 rates not to exceed 10 percent and shall mature within one (1) year  
25 of their date. The bond anticipation notes so issued will be taken  
26 up with the proceeds of bonds, or the bonds may be issued and  
27 delivered in exchange for and in substitution of such notes.

1        (l) Before any bonds shall be sold or exchanged or  
2 substituted by the District, a certified copy of the proceedings of  
3 the issuance thereof, including the form of such bonds, together  
4 with any other information which the Attorney General of the State  
5 of Texas may require, shall be submitted to the Attorney General,  
6 and if he shall find that such bonds have been issued in accordance  
7 with law, and if he shall approve such bonds, he shall execute a  
8 certificate to that effect which shall be filed in the office of the  
9 Comptroller of the State of Texas and be recorded in a record kept  
10 for that purpose. No bonds shall be issued until the same shall  
11 have been registered by the Comptroller, who shall so register the  
12 same if the Attorney General shall have filed with the Comptroller  
13 his certificate approving the bonds and the proceedings for the  
14 issuance thereof as hereinabove provided.

15        (m) All bonds approved by the Attorney General as aforesaid,  
16 and registered by the Comptroller as aforesaid, and issued in  
17 accordance with the proceedings so approved shall be valid and  
18 binding obligations of the District and shall be incontestable for  
19 any cause from and after the time of such registration.

20        (n) If any bonds recite that they are secured by a pledge of  
21 the proceeds of a contract, lease, sale or other agreement (herein  
22 called "contract"), a copy of such contract and the proceedings of  
23 the contracting parties will also be submitted to the Attorney  
24 General. If such bonds have been authorized and such contracts made  
25 in compliance with law, the Attorney General shall approve the  
26 bonds and contracts, and the bonds shall then be registered by the  
27 Comptroller of Public Accounts. When so approved, such bonds and

1 the contracts shall be valid and binding and shall be incontestable  
2 for any cause from and after the time of such registration.

3       (o) The District is authorized to make and issue bonds  
4 (herein called "refunding bonds") for the purpose of refunding or  
5 refinancing any outstanding bonds or notes authorized and issued by  
6 the District pursuant to this Act or other law (herein called  
7 "bonds") and the interest and premium, if any, thereon to maturity  
8 or on any earlier redemption date specified in the resolution  
9 authorizing the issuance of the refunding bonds. Such refunding  
10 bonds may be issued to refund more than one series of outstanding  
11 bonds, may combine the pledges of the outstanding bonds for the  
12 security of the refunding bonds, or may be secured by other or  
13 additional revenues. All provisions of this Act with reference to  
14 the issuance of bonds, the terms and provisions thereof, their  
15 approval by the Attorney General, and the remedies of the  
16 bondholders shall be applicable to refunding bonds. Refunding  
17 bonds shall be registered by the Comptroller upon surrender and  
18 cancellation of the bonds to be refunded, but in lieu thereof, the  
19 resolution authorizing the issuance of refunding bonds may provide  
20 that they shall be sold and the proceeds thereof deposited at the  
21 places at which the original bonds are payable, in which case the  
22 refunding bonds may be issued in an amount sufficient to pay the  
23 interest and premium, if any, on the original bonds to their  
24 maturity date or specified earlier redemption date, and the  
25 Comptroller will register them without concurrent surrender and  
26 cancellation of the original bonds. The District may also refund  
27 any outstanding bonds in the manner provided by any applicable

1 General Law.

2       (p) All bonds issued by the District pursuant to the  
3 provisions of this Act shall constitute investment securities  
4 within the meaning of the Uniform Commercial Code.

5       (q) This Act, without reference to other statutes of the  
6 State of Texas, shall constitute full authority for the  
7 authorization and issuance of bonds hereunder, and no other Act or  
8 law with regard to the authorization or issuance of obligations or  
9 the deposit of the proceeds thereof, or in any impeding or  
10 restricting the carrying out of the acts herein authorized to be  
11 done shall be construed as applying to any proceedings taken  
12 hereunder or acts done pursuant hereto.

13       Sec. 8. (a) When any of such revenues are pledged to the  
14 payment of any bonds issued by said District or loans received by  
15 the District, it shall be the right and duty of the District's Board  
16 of Directors to cause to be fixed, maintained and enforced charges,  
17 fees or tolls for services rendered by properties and facilities,  
18 the revenues of which have been pledged, at rates and amounts at  
19 least sufficient to comply with and carry out the covenants and  
20 provisions contained in the order or orders authorizing the  
21 issuance of said bonds.

22       (b) Regardless of whether the revenues are pledged to the  
23 payment of bonds, the [~~The~~] District shall have the right to impose  
24 penalties for failure to pay, when due, such charges, fees or tolls.

25       SECTION 7. (a) The legal notice of the intention to  
26 introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this  
27 Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a



1 copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies,  
2 officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished  
3 under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313,  
4 Government Code.

5 (b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has  
6 submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on  
7 Environmental Quality.

8 (c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed  
9 its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the  
10 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of  
11 representatives within the required time.

12 (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this  
13 state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect  
14 to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled  
15 and accomplished.

16 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.