

By: Nevárez

H.B. No. 2098

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a study by the Texas Water Development Board and the
3 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding the effects of
4 the construction of a border wall on water quality in this state.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

7 (1) "Board" means the Texas Water Development Board.

8 (2) "Border wall" means a wall, fence, or other
9 barrier on the border between the United States and Mexico.

10 (3) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on
11 Environmental Quality.

12 (b) The board and the commission jointly shall conduct a
13 study concerning the effects the construction of a border wall
14 would have on water quality in this state.

15 (c) The study must investigate:

16 (1) whether and to what extent the construction of a
17 border wall would cause or contribute to drainage problems for
18 watersheds in this state;

19 (2) whether and to what extent the construction of a
20 border wall would cause or contribute to contamination of
21 groundwater or surface water in this state or other negative
22 effects on water quality in this state; and

23 (3) whether certain designs or methods of construction
24 of a border wall would prevent or mitigate any negative effects

1 identified under Subdivisions (1) or (2) of this subsection.

2 (d) Not later than March 1, 2020, the board and the
3 commission shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
4 and each standing committee of the legislature having primary
5 jurisdiction over water development and environmental matters a
6 report of the findings of the study conducted under this section.

7 (e) This section expires January 1, 2021.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.