

By: Larson

H.B. No. 4570

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to establishing an advisory board to study surface water
3 and groundwater interaction.

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

5 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

6 (1) "Advisory board" means the Surface Water and
7 Groundwater Interaction Advisory Board.

8 (2) "Development board" means the Texas Water
9 Development Board.

10 SECTION 2. SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER INTERACTION
11 ADVISORY BOARD ESTABLISHED. (a) The Surface Water and Groundwater
12 Interaction Advisory Board is established and consists of nine
13 persons as follows:

14 (1) the executive administrator of the development
15 board;

16 (2) one person to represent the interests of the Texas
17 Commission on Environmental Quality, recommended by the Texas
18 Commission on Environmental Quality and appointed jointly by the
19 chairs of the house natural resources committee and the senate
20 water and rural affairs committee;

21 (3) one person to represent the interests of river
22 authorities, recommended by the Texas Commission on Environmental
23 Quality and appointed jointly by the chairs of the house natural
24 resources committee and the senate water and rural affairs

1 committee;

2 (4) one person to represent the interests of
3 groundwater conservation districts, recommended by the Texas
4 Commission on Environmental Quality and appointed jointly by the
5 chairs of the house natural resources committee and the senate
6 water and rural affairs committee;

7 (5) two persons with academic or specialist knowledge
8 in the area of surface water and groundwater interaction, with one
9 appointed by the chair of the house natural resources committee and
10 another appointed by the chair of the senate water and rural affairs
11 committee;

12 (6) the chair of the house natural resources
13 committee;

14 (7) the chair of the senate water and rural affairs
15 committee; and

16 (8) one person from the office of the governor,
17 appointed by the governor.

18 (b) The executive administrator of the development board
19 serves as the chair of the advisory board.

20 SECTION 3. SURFACE WATER AND GROUNDWATER INTERACTION STUDY.

21 (a) The advisory board shall study:

22 (1) the extent to which surface water and groundwater
23 interact in this state;

24 (2) challenges arising in this state from the
25 interaction of surface water and groundwater; and

26 (3) approaches to mitigating challenges arising in
27 this state from the interaction of surface water and groundwater.

1 (b) In conducting the study under this section, the advisory
2 board shall consult with:

- 3 (1) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
4 (2) groundwater conservation districts; and
5 (3) river authorities.

6 SECTION 4. STUDY REPORT; EXPIRATION OF ACT. (a) The
7 advisory board shall deliver to the governor, the lieutenant
8 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each
9 member of the legislature a report on the determinations of the
10 advisory board based on the study conducted under Section 3 of this
11 Act not later than December 1, 2020. The advisory board shall
12 deliver to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
13 the house of representatives, or a member of the legislature
14 related information on request.

15 (b) The advisory board is abolished and this Act expires
16 January 1, 2021.

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