87R18063 JAM-F

By:  Larson H.B. No. 3084

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the proposal by the Texas Water Development Board of a process to identify and evaluate multiregional water supply projects.

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

SECTION 1.  REPORT. (a) In this section:

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

(2)  "Multiregional water supply project" means a water supply project that has the potential to serve more than one regional water planning area and:

(A)  create greater yields of water at a lower unit cost due to economies of scale; or

(B)  provide strategic water reserves for the state's long-term water needs.

(b)  Not later than December 1, 2024, the board shall submit to the legislature a report that:

(1)  proposes the framework for the addition of a new state-level planning component to the existing regional water planning process that would identify and evaluate multiregional water supply projects; and

(2)  contains a general outline for a potential work plan, timeline, and estimated cost for the implementation of the planning component proposed by Subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(c)  In developing the multiregional planning component framework described by Subsection (b)(1) of this section, the board shall consider:

(1)  the currently adopted regional and state water plans;

(2)  potentially available unused or new water sources, including sources related to flooding and seawater;

(3)  information that is readily available regarding potential multiregional water supply projects;

(4)  the potential of multiregional water supply projects to:

(A)  provide water supplies beyond the 50-year state water planning horizon; and

(B)  address droughts worse than the drought of record; and

(5)  other relevant factors as determined by the board.

(d)  In developing the report required by Subsection (b) of this section, the board may:

(1)  consult with the interregional planning council established by Section 16.052, Water Code; and

(2)  contract for research and technical services as needed in developing the proposed framework for the multiregional planning component of the state water plan.

SECTION 2.  EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2025.

SECTION 3.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.