

By: Birdwell

S.B. No. 739

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the presiding officers of the boards of directors of river authorities.

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

SECTION 1. Title 5, Water Code, is amended by designating Chapter 152 as Subtitle A and adding a subtitle heading to read as follows:

SUBTITLE A. RIVER AUTHORITIES

SECTION 2. Subtitle A, Title 5, Water Code, as added by this Act, is amended by adding Chapter 150 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 150. PROVISIONS GENERALLY APPLICABLE TO RIVER AUTHORITIES

Sec. 150.0001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the board of directors of a river authority.

(2) "River authority" means the San Antonio River Authority and a district that:

(A) is created by the legislature under the authority of Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, as a regional water management entity to provide water development and planning services and other services to a river basin or portion of a river basin;

(B) contains one or more counties within its boundaries; and

(C) is governed by a board of directors appointed

1 or designated wholly or partly by the governor.

2 Sec. 150.0002. PRESIDING OFFICER. (a) This section does
3 not apply to a district with an entirely elected board or the Upper
4 Neches River Municipal Water Authority.

5 (b) The governor shall designate a member of the board of a
6 river authority as the presiding officer of the board to serve in
7 that capacity at the pleasure of the governor.

8 SECTION 3. (a) In this section, "river authority" has the
9 meaning assigned by Section 150.0001, Water Code, as added by this
10 Act.

11 (b) For each river authority for which the governor was not
12 required to designate a presiding officer of the board of directors
13 for that river authority before the effective date of this Act and
14 for which the governor is required to designate a presiding officer
15 under Section 150.0002, Water Code, as added by this Act, the
16 governor shall designate a presiding officer of the board of
17 directors of the river authority not later than January 31, 2022.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.