

By: Zwiener

H.B. No. 96

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of a water conservation program by a county.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 562, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter C to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. WATER CONSERVATION

Sec. 562.051. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS. (a) In this section, "agricultural operation" has the meaning assigned by Section 251.002, Agriculture Code.

(b) The commissioners court of a county by order may adopt a water conservation program. A water conservation program adopted under this section may establish for the unincorporated area of the county only:

(1) rules for residential water use restrictions during periods of drought; and

(2) water conservation standards applicable to the residential development of a subdivision of a tract of land, the development of which begins after August 31, 2024.

(c) Water use restrictions established under Subsection (b)(1) may not apply to an agricultural operation.

(d) To the extent of a conflict between a county order adopted under this section and a municipal ordinance regulating the same conduct, the ordinance prevails.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2024.