By:  Canales (Senate Sponsor - Johnson) H.B. No. 4373

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 15, 2023; May 15, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Business & Commerce; May 19, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; May 19, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Schwertner           X

King                 X

Birdwell                       X

Campbell             X

Creighton            X

Johnson              X

Kolkhorst            X

Menéndez             X

Middleton            X

Nichols              X

Zaffirini            X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the procedure by which a regional water planning group is required to make the regional water plan prepared by the group available for public inspection.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 16.053(h), Water Code, is amended by amending Subdivision (3) and adding Subdivision (13) to read as follows:

(3)  After the regional water plan is initially prepared, the regional water planning group shall, after notice, hold at least one public hearing at some central location readily accessible to the public within the regional water planning area.  The group shall make [~~copies of~~] the plan available for public inspection at least one month before the hearing by posting the plan on the group's publicly accessible Internet website and may make the plan available for review at other locations [~~providing a copy of the plan in the county courthouse and at least one public library of each county having land in the region~~].  Notice for the hearing must [~~shall~~] include the address of the Internet website on which the plan will be posted [~~a listing of these~~] and any other location where the plan is available for review.

(13)  Each regional water planning group shall maintain a publicly accessible Internet website. Each regional water planning group shall consider and accommodate residents of the regional water planning area who may need assistance accessing the regional water plan prepared by the regional water planning group because of a lack of access to Internet services.

SECTION 2.  The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a regional water plan required to be made available for public inspection on or after the effective date of this Act. A regional water plan required to be made available for public inspection before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the plan is required to be made available, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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