

By: Canales

H.B. No. 4373

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the procedure by which a regional water planning group
3 is required to make the regional water plan prepared by the group
4 available for public inspection.

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

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

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

23 (13) Each regional water planning group shall maintain
24 a publicly accessible Internet website. Each regional water

1 planning group shall consider and accommodate residents of the
2 regional water planning area who may need assistance accessing the
3 regional water plan prepared by the regional water planning group
4 because of a lack of access to Internet services.

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

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