

**SENATE AMENDMENTS**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Printing**

By: Harris, Ashby, Alders, Hefner, Gerdes, H.B. No. 27  
et al.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to a groundwater study of certain aquifers underlying the  
3 territory of the Neches and Trinity Valleys Groundwater  
4 Conservation District by the Texas Water Development Board before  
5 the issuance of permits or permit amendments by the district.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 8863, Special District  
8 Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 8863.106 to read as  
9 follows:

10 Sec. 8863.106. STUDY; PERMIT MORATORIUM. (a) The Texas  
11 Water Development Board shall conduct a study to:

12 (1) analyze the annual maximum amount of groundwater  
13 that can be produced in perpetuity in the district from the  
14 aquifers underlying the district's territory without impeding the  
15 achievement of the desired future conditions adopted for those  
16 aquifers that are applicable to the territory of the district;

17 (2) compare the results of the analyses conducted  
18 under Subdivision (1) to the amount of modeled available  
19 groundwater determined by the executive administrator of the Texas  
20 Water Development Board before September 1, 2025, for each aquifer;  
21 and

22 (3) assess the hydrological effects in the district of  
23 proposed groundwater production in the district as represented in  
24 the applicable desired future conditions, and of transfers of

1 produced groundwater to areas outside of the district proposed in  
2 any pending applications for a permit or permit amendment from the  
3 district, and compare those effects with the hydrological effects  
4 that would be expected if groundwater production in the district  
5 were limited annually to the amount that could be produced in  
6 perpetuity as determined under Subdivision (1).

7 (b) The hydrological effects assessed under Subsection  
8 (a)(3) must include effects on average annual recharge, inflows,  
9 discharges, spring flows, capture, and interaction between  
10 groundwater and surface water in the district.

11 (c) Not later than January 12, 2027, the Texas Water  
12 Development Board shall prepare and submit to the governor, the  
13 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,  
14 and each standing legislative committee with primary jurisdiction  
15 over groundwater a report on the results of the study conducted  
16 under this section.

17 (d) The district may not issue a new permit or permit  
18 amendment to an applicant for the production and transfer out of the  
19 district of groundwater until after the 270th day after the  
20 deadline for the submission of the report required by Subsection  
21 (c).

22 (e) This section expires November 1, 2027.

23 SECTION 2. Section 8863.106(d), Special District Local Laws  
24 Code, as added by this Act, does not apply to a permit or a permit  
25 amendment issued by the Neches and Trinity Valleys Groundwater  
26 Conservation District before the effective date of this Act.

27 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
5 legislative session.

**ADOPTED**

SEP 02 2025

RV: 21-6

*Latey Spaw*  
Secretary of the Senate

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. 1

BY: 

1 Amend H.B. 27 (house engrossment) as follows:

2 (1) On page 1, line 10, strike "; PERMIT MORATORIUM".

3 (2) On page 2, strike lines 17 through 21.

4 (3) On page 2, line 22, strike "(e)" and substitute with "(d)".

5 (4) On page 2, strike Section 2, lines 23 through 26, and  
6 renumber subsequent Sections accordingly.

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATURE 2nd CALLED SESSION 2025**

**September 2, 2025**

**TO:** Honorable Dustin Burrows, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB27** by Harris (Relating to a groundwater study of certain aquifers underlying the territory of the Neches and Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District by the Texas Water Development Board before the issuance of permits or permit amendments by the district.), **As Passed 2nd House**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 580 Water Development Board

**LBB Staff:** JMc, SD, CMA, MW, AJL

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATURE 2nd CALLED SESSION 2025**

**August 26, 2025**

**TO:** Honorable Charles Perry, Chair, Senate Committee on Disaster Preparedness & Flooding, Select

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB27** by Harris (Relating to a groundwater study of certain aquifers underlying the territory of the Neches and Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District by the Texas Water Development Board before the issuance of permits or permit amendments by the district.), **As Engrossed**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 580 Water Development Board

**LBB Staff:** JMc, CMA, MW, AJL

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATURE 2nd CALLED SESSION 2025**

**August 22, 2025**

**TO:** Honorable Cody Harris, Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB27** by Harris (relating to a groundwater study of certain aquifers underlying the territory of the Neches and Trinity Valleys Groundwater Conservation District by the Texas Water Development Board before the issuance of permits or permit amendments by the district.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 580 Water Development Board

**LBB Staff:** JMc, CMA, MW, AJL

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATURE 2nd CALLED SESSION 2025**

**August 20, 2025**

**TO:** Honorable Cody Harris, Chair, House Committee on Natural Resources

**FROM:** Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB27** by Harris (Relating to the consideration by a groundwater conservation district of modeled available groundwater when issuing permits.), **As Introduced**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 580 Water Development Board

**LBB Staff:** JMc, CMA, MW, AJL