By:  Morales of Maverick (Senate Sponsor - Blanco) H.B. No. 3333

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 15, 2025; May 16, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 23, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 23, 2025, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                     Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Perry                 X

Hancock               X

Birdwell                        X

Blanco                X

Gutierrez             X

Hinojosa of Nueces    X

Johnson               X

Kolkhorst             X

Sparks                X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 3333 By:  Perry

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a restriction on permits authorizing direct discharges of waste or pollutants into water in certain river segments and drainage areas.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 26, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 26.0275 to read as follows:

Sec. 26.0275.  RESTRICTION ON PERMITS FOR DISCHARGES INTO CERTAIN SEGMENTS AND DRAINAGE AREAS. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Classified segment" means any portion of Devils River located in Val Verde County and identified in Appendices A and C of 30 T.A.C. Section 307.10 as it existed on September 1, 2025.

(2)  "Unclassified water body" means a water body other than a classified segment.

(b)  Except as provided by Subsection (c), the commission may not issue a new permit authorizing the direct discharge from a domestic or industrial wastewater treatment facility of any waste, effluent, or pollutants into a classified segment or an unclassified water body in Val Verde County that drains into a classified segment.

(c)  This section does not affect the authority of the commission to issue:

(1)  an individual or general permit for a municipal separate storm sewer system; or

(2)  a general permit for stormwater and associated non-stormwater discharges.

SECTION 2.  The change in law made by this Act applies only to an application for a permit that is submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on or after the effective date of this Act. An application for a permit that was submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the application was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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