By:  Dean, et a1. (Senate Sponsor - Hughes) H.B. No. 5659

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 15, 2025; May 21, 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 7, Nays 1; 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. 5659 By:  Perry

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the procedural requirements applicable to interbasin transfers of water involving the Northeast Texas Municipal Water District.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 78, Acts of the 53rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1953, is amended by adding Sections 17A and 17B to read as follows:

Sec. 17A.  (a) Before the District may enter into a contract for an interbasin transfer of water or acquire a permit or other authorization from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for a proposed interbasin transfer, the Board of Directors shall hold a public hearing on the proposed interbasin transfer.

(b)  The Board of Directors shall provide any interested person an opportunity to appear before the Board at the hearing and speak on the proposed interbasin transfer.

(c)  The Board of Directors shall provide notice of the hearing in the manner provided by Section 49.063, Water Code, for a meeting of the Board.

Sec. 17B.  The District may enter into a contract or acquire a permit or other authorization described by Section 17A of this Act only if the contract or authorization is approved by a majority vote of the governing bodies of a majority of the cities entitled to appoint one or more directors under Section 3 or 6 of this Act.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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