89R1958 CS-D

By:  Schwertner S.B. No. 542

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a property owners' association to assess a fine for discolored vegetation or turf during a period of residential watering restriction.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 202, Property Code, is amended by adding Section 202.008 to read as follows:

Sec. 202.008.  LIMITATION ON FINES DURING RESIDENTIAL WATER RESTRICTION. (a) For the purposes of this section, "residential watering restriction" means a temporary restriction of water use to irrigate residential vegetation or turf that is mandated by a municipality, water utility, or other wholesale or retail water supplier as part of a strategy to conserve water during a period of drought.

(b)  A property owners' association may not assess a fine against a property owner for a violation of an applicable restrictive covenant that requires the owner to maintain green vegetation or turf or prohibits discolored or brown vegetation or turf on the property:

(1)  during a period when the owner's property is subject to a residential watering restriction under which discolored or brown vegetation or turf could reasonably result; and

(2)  for a reasonable period of time after a residential watering restriction described by Subdivision (1) is lifted.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.