

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 1238

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the inspection of the location of a proposed Class I
3 injection well.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 27.016, Water Code, is amended to read as
6 follows:

7 Sec. 27.016. INSPECTION OF WELL LOCATION. (a) On receiving
8 an application for a permit, the executive director shall:

9 (1) have an inspection made of the location of the
10 proposed disposal well to determine the local conditions and the
11 probable effect of the well; and

12 (2) [shall] determine the requirements for the setting
13 of casing, as provided in Sections 27.051, 27.055, and 27.056 [ef
14 ~~this code~~].

15 (b) For a proposed Class I injection well, the executive
16 director may satisfy the requirements of Subsection (a) by
17 accepting an inspection report prepared by an engineer or
18 geoscientist licensed in this state. The report must:

19 (1) confirm that the engineer or geoscientist
20 inspected the location of the proposed injection well to determine
21 the local conditions and the probable effect of the well; and

1 (c) An engineer or geoscientist may conduct an inspection
2 under Subsection (b)(1):

3 (1) in person at the location of the proposed
4 injection well; or

5 (2) virtually through:

6 (A) satellite or other aerial imagery;

7 (B) mapping software; or

8 (C) other appropriate information sources.

9 (d) The executive director may require an engineer or
10 geoscientist that submits a virtual inspection described by
11 Subsection (c)(2) to conduct an additional in-person inspection if
12 the initial visual inspection reveals an issue the executive
13 director determines merits an in-person inspection.

14 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
15 to a permit application filed with the Texas Commission on
16 Environmental Quality on or after the effective date of this Act. A
17 permit application filed before the effective date of this Act is
18 subject to the law in effect on the date the application is filed,
19 and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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