

1-1 By: Cunningham, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Creighton) H.B. No. 1532
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 30, 2025;
1-3 May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Local
1-4 Government; May 26, 2025, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 26, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Bettencourt	X		
1-9	Middleton	X		
1-10	Cook	X		
1-11	Gutierrez	X		
1-12	Nichols	X		
1-13	Paxton	X		
1-14	West	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the creation of the Lake Houston Dredging and
1-18 Maintenance District; providing the authority to issue bonds.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. The heading to Subtitle L, Title 6, Special
1-21 District Local Laws Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-22 SUBTITLE L. MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY WATER DISTRICTS

1-23 SECTION 2. Subtitle L, Title 6, Special District Local Laws
1-24 Code, is amended by adding Chapter 9602 to read as follows:

1-25 CHAPTER 9602. LAKE HOUSTON DREDGING AND MAINTENANCE DISTRICT

1-26 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1-27 Sec. 9602.0101. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-28 (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the
1-29 district.

1-30 (2) "Director" means a member of the board of
1-31 directors of the district.

1-32 (3) "District" means the Lake Houston Dredging and
1-33 Maintenance District.

1-34 (4) "Service area" means the area in which the
1-35 district may perform dredging and maintenance operations, which is
1-36 composed of the following territory:

1-37 (A) Lake Houston;

1-38 (B) the East and West Forks of the San Jacinto
1-39 River between the Harris County line and Lake Houston;

1-40 (C) Luce Bayou downstream from Trent Road; and

1-41 (D) Caney Creek between the Harris County line
1-42 and Lake Houston.

1-43 Sec. 9602.0102. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The district is a
1-44 conservation and reclamation district created under and essential
1-45 to accomplish the purposes of Section 59, Article XVI, Texas
1-46 Constitution.

1-47 Sec. 9602.0103. FINDINGS OF BENEFIT AND PUBLIC PURPOSE.

1-48 (a) The district is created to serve a public use and benefit.

1-49 (b) All land and other property in the boundaries of the
1-50 district will benefit from the works and projects accomplished by
1-51 the district under the powers conferred by Section 59, Article XVI,
1-52 Texas Constitution.

1-53 Sec. 9602.0104. DISTRICT TERRITORY. Unless the district
1-54 territory has been modified under Subchapter J, Chapter 49, Water
1-55 Code, or other law, the boundaries of the district are coextensive
1-56 with the boundaries of Harris County.

1-57 SUBCHAPTER B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1-58 Sec. 9602.0201. GOVERNING BODY; TERMS; PRESIDING OFFICER.

1-59 (a) The district is governed by a board of five directors appointed
1-60 as follows:

1-61 (1) one director appointed by the city council of the

City of Houston;

(2) two directors appointed by the director of the City of Houston Public Works;

(3) one director appointed by the governing body of the Harris County Flood Control District; and

(4) one director appointed by the mayor of the City of Houston.

(b) Directors serve staggered four-year terms.

(c) The director appointed under Subsection (a)(4) serves as the board's presiding officer.

SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES

Sec. 9602.0301. GENERAL POWERS AND DUTIES. Except as provided by this chapter, the district has the powers and duties applicable to a district under Chapter 49, Water Code.

Sec. 9602.0302. SPECIFIC POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) In this section, "dredging and maintenance operations" includes the removal of:

(1) sediment and debris that accumulates under and above the water; and

(2) floating debris.

(b) The district may form voluntary interlocal agreements with political subdivisions, corporate entities, or other persons to perform dredging and maintenance operations in areas of the service area controlled or maintained by the party to the interlocal agreement. The district may not require payment from the other party to the interlocal agreement for dredging and maintenance operations performed under an interlocal agreement entered into under this section.

(c) The district may seek from any source a grant of money or another resource to assist the district's dredging and maintenance operations.

(d) Dredging and maintenance operations performed by or caused to be performed by the district may not:

(1) negatively affect the quality of water in Lake Houston; or

(2) degrade the quality of water to be:

(A) treated by the City of Houston's Northeast Water Purification Plant or any other surface water treatment plant; or

(B) transported by the West Canal or another water conveyance system.

(e) The district must:

(1) obtain approval from the City of Houston Public Works before performing or causing to be performed dredging and maintenance operations in Lake Houston; and

(2) exercise due diligence when performing dredging and maintenance operations in Lake Houston.

(f) The City of Houston Public Works is immune from liability for any damages resulting from direct or indirect dredging and maintenance operations performed in Lake Houston, regardless of whether the operations are performed by or caused to be performed by the district.

Sec. 9602.0303. SAND, GRAVEL, MARL, SHELL, AND MUDSHELL.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law, the district may take sand, gravel, marl, shell, and mudshell from areas of the service area to restore, maintain, or expand the capacity of the service area to convey storm flows.

(b) For purposes of this section, the district is not required to:

(1) obtain a permit or pay a fee to take sand, gravel, marl, shell, or mudshell under Subsection (a); or

(2) purchase sand, gravel, marl, shell, or mudshell taken under Subsection (a).

(c) The district may:

(1) deposit sand, gravel, marl, shell, or mudshell taken under Subsection (a) on private land; and

(2) sell sand, gravel, marl, shell, or mudshell taken under Subsection (a).

Sec. 9602.0304. LIMITATION ON POWERS. The district may

not:

(1) finance, develop, or maintain a recreational facility under Subchapter N, Chapter 49, Water Code;

(2) exercise the power of eminent domain; or

(3) perform the same function as another conservation and reclamation district whose territory overlaps with the territory of the district, except the district may perform dredging operations if other conservation and reclamation districts are performing dredging operations in the territory of the district.

SUBCHAPTER D. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 9602.0401. AUTHORITY TO ISSUE REVENUE BONDS. (a) The district may issue bonds payable from and secured by district revenue to carry out any power conferred by this chapter. The bonds must be authorized by a board resolution.

(b) The bonds must be issued in the manner and under the terms of the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds.

Sec. 9602.0402. PLAN OF FINANCING. (a) The district shall study methods of financing the services provided by and improvements constructed by the district.

(b) The district shall make the results of the study conducted under this section available to the public.

Sec. 9602.0403. PROHIBITION ON TAXATION AND FEES. The district may not impose a tax or charge a fee.

Sec. 9602.0404. STATE FUNDING. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the legislature may appropriate money from the state treasury to the district to fund the district's activities under this chapter. Legislative appropriations to the district for a state fiscal year may not exceed \$25 million.

(b) The legislature may not appropriate money to the district for a state fiscal year that begins on or after September 1, 2027.

SECTION 3. (a) Not later than September 1, 2026, the city council of the City of Houston, the director of the City of Houston Public Works, the governing body of the Harris County Flood Control District, and the mayor of the City of Houston shall appoint the initial members of the board of directors of the Lake Houston Dredging and Maintenance District as required by Section 9602.0201, Special District Local Laws Code, as added by this Act.

(b) At the first meeting of the board of directors of the Lake Houston Dredging and Maintenance District, the directors shall draw lots to determine which three directors serve a term of four years and which two directors serve a term of two years.

SECTION 4. (a) The legal notice of the intention to introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies, officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313, Government Code.

(b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives within the required time.

(d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled and accomplished.

SECTION 5. 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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