

By: VanDeaver

H.B. No. 2620

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the inclusion of certain sources of water supply in  
3 regional water plans.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 16.053, Water Code, is amended by adding  
6 Subsection (e-3) to read as follows:

7 (e-3) In identifying potential sources of water supply to be  
8 included in a regional water plan, including sites of unique value  
9 for the construction of reservoirs identified under Subsection  
10 (e)(6), a regional water planning group may not include in the plan  
11 a source of water supply that requires the use of eminent domain and  
12 is located in another regional water planning area unless the  
13 planning group:

14 (1) demonstrates that all possible new sources of  
15 water supply within the planning group's planning area, including  
16 desalination projects and projects to expand and improve existing  
17 water supply sources, will be insufficient to meet the planning  
18 area's future water needs;

19 (2) demonstrates that all potentially feasible water  
20 management strategies identified under Subsection (e)(5)(C) have  
21 been implemented throughout the planning group's planning area; and

22 (3) submits to the board a report that:

23 (A) identifies, analyzes, and quantifies any  
24 negative effects on residents of the area where the proposed source

1 of water supply is located resulting from the development of that  
2 water supply, including negative ecological, economic, and  
3 educational effects; and

4 (B) includes a mitigation plan that alleviates  
5 any negative effects identified in the study.

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