

By: Morales of Maverick

H.B. No. 3333

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a restriction on permits authorizing direct discharges of waste or pollutants into water in certain stream segments, stream assessment units, and drainage areas.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 26, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 26.0275 to read as follows:

Sec. 26.0275. RESTRICTION ON PERMITS FOR DISCHARGES INTO CERTAIN SEGMENTS, ASSESSMENT UNITS, AND DRAINAGE AREAS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Assessment unit" has the meaning assigned by the commission's Surface Water Quality Monitoring Program as it existed on September 1, 2025.

(2) "Classified segment" means any portion of Devils River located in Val Verde County and identified in Appendices A and C of 30 T.A.C. Section 307.10 as it existed on September 1, 2025.

(3) "Drainage area" means any unclassified water body that drains to a stream segment or a stream assessment unit to which this section applies.

(4) "Stream assessment unit" means an assessment unit for a stream, creek, or river, or a portion of a stream, creek, or river, that is located within a classified segment that is not a stream segment to which this section applies.

(5) "Stream segment" means a stream, creek, or river,

1 or a portion of a stream, creek, or river, that is a classified
2 segment.

3 (6) "Unclassified water body" means a water body other
4 than a classified segment or an assessment unit located within a
5 classified segment.

6 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the commission may
7 not issue a new permit authorizing the direct discharge from a
8 domestic, industrial, or commercial wastewater treatment facility
9 of any waste, effluent, or pollutants into a stream segment, stream
10 assessment unit, or drainage area to which this section applies.

11 (c) This section does not affect the authority of the
12 commission to issue:

13 (1) an individual permit for a municipal separate
14 storm sewer system; or

15 (2) a general permit for stormwater and associated
16 non-stormwater discharges.

17 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only
18 to an application for a permit that is submitted to the Texas
19 Commission on Environmental Quality on or after the effective date
20 of this Act. An application for a permit that was submitted to the
21 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality before the effective date
22 of this Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the
23 application was filed, and the former law is continued in effect for
24 that purpose.

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