

1-1 By: Romero, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Johnson) H.B. No. 4530  
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2025;  
1-3 May 9, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Water,  
1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 23, 2025, reported favorably by  
1-5 the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 23, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Perry	X		
1-9	Hancock	X		
1-10	Birdwell		X	
1-11	Blanco	X		
1-12	Gutierrez	X		
1-13	Hinojosa of Nueces	X		
1-14	Johnson	X		
1-15	Kolkhorst	X		
1-16	Sparks	X		

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the dedication and management of water rights placed in  
1-20 the Texas Water Trust.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Sections 12.028(b) and (c), Parks and Wildlife  
1-23 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-24 (b) Consistent with Section 11.0235(b), Water Code, and the  
1-25 department's duties and responsibilities, the department shall  
1-26 encourage and facilitate the dedication of surface water rights in  
1-27 the Texas Water Trust through lease, donation, purchase, or other  
1-28 means of voluntary transfer for environmental needs, including for  
1-29 the purpose of maintaining or improving:

- 1-30 (1) instream flows;  
1-31 (2) water quality;  
1-32 (3) fish and wildlife habitat; and  
1-33 (4) bay and estuary inflows.

1-34 (c) The department may manage surface water rights in the  
1-35 Texas Water Trust in a manner that is consistent with:

- 1-36 (1) the manner in which a holder of the rights may  
1-37 manage the rights;  
1-38 (2) the dedication of the rights, including the  
1-39 dedication's terms and conditions;  
1-40 (3) Sections 11.0237, 11.027, and 11.122, Water Code;  
1-41 and  
1-42 (4) maximizing environmental benefits.

1-43 SECTION 2. Section 15.7031, Water Code, is amended by  
1-44 amending Subsections (c) and (e) and adding Subsection (c-1) to  
1-45 read as follows:

1-46 (c) The dedication of any surface water rights placed in  
1-47 trust must be reviewed and approved by the commission, in  
1-48 consultation with the board and the Parks and Wildlife Department.  
1-49 In addition, the Department of Agriculture may provide input to the  
1-50 commission, as appropriate, during the review and approval process  
1-51 for the dedication of surface water rights.

1-52 (c-1) The dedication of any groundwater rights placed in  
1-53 trust must be reviewed and approved by the board. The board must  
1-54 provide notice of the dedication to any district or authority that:

- 1-55 (1) was created under Section 52, Article III, or  
1-56 Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution; and  
1-57 (2) has the authority to regulate the spacing of or  
1-58 production from water wells located in the aquifer, subdivision of  
1-59 the aquifer, or geologic stratum in which the groundwater that is  
1-60 the subject of the groundwater rights is located.

1-61 (e) The Parks and Wildlife Department may manage surface

2-1 water rights in the trust:

2-2 (1) under a voluntary agreement with a rights holder;

2-3 and

2-4 (2) in the manner described by Section [12.028\(c\)](#),

2-5 Parks and Wildlife Code.

2-6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

2-7 \* \* \* \* \*