

By: Johnson, West

S.B. No. 1624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the purposes for which the Texas Water Bank and the
3 Texas Water Trust may accept and hold water rights.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 15.703(a), Water Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

10 (1) negotiating a sale price and terms acceptable to
11 the depositor and purchaser;

12 (2) maintaining a registry of water bank deposits and
13 those water users in need of additional supplies;

14 (3) informing water users in need of additional supply
15 of water rights available in the bank;

16 (4) encouraging water right holders to implement water
17 conservation practices and deposit the right to use the conserved
18 water into the bank;

19 (5) establishing requirements for deposit of a water
20 right into the water bank including minimum terms for deposit;

21 (6) purchasing, holding, and transferring water or
22 water rights in its own name;

23 (7) establishing regional water banks;

24 (8) acting as a clearinghouse for water marketing

S.B. No. 1624

1 information including water availability, pricing of water
2 transactions, environmental considerations, and potential buyers
3 and sellers of water rights;

4 (9) preparing and publishing a manual on structuring
5 water transactions;

6 (10) accepting and holding donations of water rights
7 to meet conservation needs or environmental needs, including
8 instream flow, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, or bay and
9 estuary inflow needs;

10 (11) entering into contracts with persons to pay for
11 feasibility studies or the preparation of plans and specifications
12 relating to water conservation efforts or to estimate the amount of
13 water that would be saved through conservation efforts; and

14 (12) other actions to facilitate water transactions.

15 SECTION 2. Section 15.7031(a), Water Code, is amended to
16 read as follows:

17 (a) The Texas Water Trust is established within the water
18 bank to hold water rights dedicated to conservation needs or
19 environmental needs, including instream flow [flows], water
20 quality, fish and wildlife habitat, or bay and estuary inflow needs
21 [inflows].

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