

By: Johnson, West

S.B. No. 1624

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

(a) The board may take all actions necessary to operate the water bank and to facilitate the transfer of water rights from the water bank for future beneficial use including but not limited to:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) establishing regional water banks;

(8) acting as a clearinghouse for water marketing

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.