

House Bill 4530
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION	SENATE VERSION (IE)	CONFERENCE
<p>SECTION 1. Sections 12.028(b) and (c), Parks and Wildlife Code, are amended to read as follows:</p> <p>(b) Consistent with Section 11.0235(b), Water Code, and the department's duties and responsibilities, the department shall encourage and facilitate the dedication of <u>surface</u> water rights in the Texas Water Trust through lease, donation, purchase, or other means of voluntary transfer for environmental needs, including for the purpose of maintaining or improving:</p> <p>(1) instream flows;</p> <p>(2) water quality;</p> <p>(3) fish and wildlife habitat; and</p> <p>(4) bay and estuary inflows.</p> <p>(c) The department may manage <u>surface water</u> rights in the Texas Water Trust in a manner that is consistent with:</p> <p>(1) the manner in which a holder of the rights may manage the rights;</p> <p>(2) the dedication of the rights, including the dedication's terms and conditions;</p> <p>(3) Sections 11.0237, 11.027, and 11.122, Water Code; and</p> <p>(4) maximizing environmental benefits.</p> <p>No equivalent provision.</p>	<p>SECTION 1. Same as House version.</p> <p>SECTION __. Section 15.703(a), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:</p> <p>(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:</p> <p>(1) negotiating a sale price and terms acceptable to the depositor and purchaser;</p>	

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- (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 information including water availability, pricing of water transactions, environmental considerations, and potential buyers and sellers of water rights;
- (9) preparing and publishing a manual on structuring water transactions;
- (10) accepting and holding donations of water rights to meet conservation needs or environmental needs, including instream flow, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, or bay and estuary inflow needs;
- (11) entering into contracts with persons to pay for feasibility studies or the preparation of plans and specifications relating to water conservation efforts or to estimate the amount of water that would be saved through conservation efforts; and
- (12) other actions to facilitate water transactions. [FA1]

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

No equivalent provision.

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(a) The Texas Water Trust is established within the water bank to hold water rights dedicated to conservation needs or environmental needs, including instream flow [~~flows~~], water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, or bay and estuary inflow needs [~~inflows~~]. [FA1]

SECTION 2. Same as House version.

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

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

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

(1) was created under Section 52, Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution; and

(2) has the authority to regulate the spacing of or production from water wells located in the aquifer, subdivision of the aquifer, or geologic stratum in which the groundwater that is the subject of the groundwater rights is located.

(e) The Parks and Wildlife Department may manage surface water rights in the trust:

(1) under a voluntary agreement with a rights holder; and

(2) in the manner described by Section 12.028(c), Parks and Wildlife Code.

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

SENATE VERSION (IE)

SECTION 3. Same as House version.

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