

**Water Resources Council**  
**84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Bills of Interest**

Bill	Author	Topic	Status	NCTCOG Staff Notes
<b>Water Related Legislation</b>				
<a href="#">H.B. 3953</a>	Geren (River Oaks)	Public Utility Commission of Texas in relation to the economic regulation of water and sewer service.	Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/24/2015	Public Utilities Commission can compel a water or sewer service provider to provide services or emergency interconnection with a neighboring retail public utility if service is discontinued or impaired
<a href="#">H.B. 3821</a>	Ashby (Lufkin)	Procedure for action by TCEQ on an application for a water right.	Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/23/2015	Amending the Water Code for processing and reviewing application for a water right.
<a href="#">S.B. 1903</a>	Perry (Lubbock)	Storage and recovery of water in aquifers authorizing fees and surcharges.	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/25/2015	Use of the Water Code to provide better standards and regulations for injection and recovery in aquifers.
<a href="#">S.B. 1907</a>	Perry (Lubbock)	Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the development of a market and conveyance network for water in this state.	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/25/2015	Improving the efficient use of water in the state by improving the laws in regards to water transfers and conveyance infrastructure. The TWDB will conduct a study to establish a water grid (integrated network of pipelines, pumping stations, reservoirs, and other works for the conveyance of water).
<a href="#">H.B. 3942</a>	Paddie (Houston)	Relating to the authority to determine the supply of groundwater in certain regional water plans.	Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/23/2015	Regional water planning groups would submit a plan that identifies the needs of the region including, water sources, drought response, water infrastructure facilities, and water management strategies.
<a href="#">S.B. 1724</a>	Creighton (Beaumont)	Relating to the storage and recovery of water in aquifers; authoriznig fees and surcharges	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/23/2015	Injection well projects related to recovery of water in aquifers will have public notice and permit authorization. The subsequent well and project manager on the well will have to maintain project reports and annual water testing reports

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<a href="#">H.B. 3161</a>	Cyrier (Austin)	Relating to prioritizing groundwater production	Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/23/2015	Review permits for exporting water to include consideration of current district conditions, conservation and drought contingency measures, and economic impact. Permit cannot be rejected based on exporting groundwater.
<a href="#">H.B. 3788</a>	Reynolds (Austin)	Information required to be in a regional water plan and use of that information by the regional water planning group in developing the regional plan.	Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/23/2015	Additional information to provided to the water board to for water management plans
<a href="#">S.B. 1627</a>	Lucio (Brownsville)	Related to state and local planning for and responses to drought.	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/23/2015	Amending the Water Code to monitor trends in water conservation implementation, new technology, and effectiveness of statewide water conservation public awareness program.
<a href="#">H.B. 3696</a>	Landgraf (Austin)	Establishment of the Texas Water Research Program	Higher Education Committee 3/19/2015	Texas Water Research Program is to establish and incentivize water conservation and reuse program research by institutions and public policy research on water policy regulatory framework.
<a href="#">S.B. 1526</a>	Garcia (Houston)	Amendment of the Water Code for certain water utilities' certificate of public convenience and necessity for major rules violations.	Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development 3/23/2015	Utility Commission staff shall file a petition to revoke an investor owned water utility's certificate of public convenience if the utility has committed repeated drinking water violations.
<a href="#">S.B. 1411</a>	Estes (Wichita Falls)	Relating to a water right authorizing a transfer of water from one river basin in the state to another river basin in this state.	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/18/2015	Proposed transfer from the part of one river basin to another with certain exceptions.

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<a href="#">H.B. 3363</a>	Keffer (Granbury)	Relating to authorizing local government programs to provide assessments for residential water and energy improvements in designated regions.	Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/17/2015	the board's authority under this chapter is limited to the financing of: the acquisition or construction of a building; the purchase or lease of equipment; stranded costs of a municipal power agency; or local government water and energy improvement contractual assessment programs for the benefit of residential real property.
<a href="#">H.B. 3298</a>	Larson (San Antonio)	Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the development of a market and conveyance network for water in this state.	In Natural Resources Committee, Public Hearing 4/8/2015	Upon completion of this study, the TWDB will have conducted reviews and evaluate facilities for increasing efficiency, management, and construction of the water grid.
<a href="#">S.B. 1311</a>	Lucio (Brownsville)	Relating to the Office of Water and the Water Advisory Committee in the Department of Agriculture	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/18/2015	The Comissioner shall establish an Office of Water within the department. Office of Water will support: goals and objectives and development of programs related to agricultural water use. Commissioner will appoint a Water Advisory Committee of 9 to advise the Commissioner on agricultural water use. Takes effect Sept. 1, 2015
<a href="#">H.B. 3172</a>	Schaefer (Tyler)	Relating to emergency orders concerning water rights issued by TCEQ	Referred to Natural Resources 3/23/2015	During a period of drought, the executive director may issue an order once it has been in a drought for at least 30 consecutive days before the date the order is issued. If the period of suspension or adjustment in the order is longer than six months, the order will be reviewed at least once every six months to determine whether the drought in the river basin is still severe.
<a href="#">H.B. 2852</a>	Nevarez (Eagle Pass)	Relating to municipal rates for water and sewer service charged to public school districts.	Referred to Natural Resources; Public hearing 4/8/2015	A municipally owned utility that provides retail water or sewer utility service to a public school district shall charge the district for that service the lowest rates the utility charges commercial businesses or nonprofit organizations

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<a href="#">H.B. 2570</a>	Johnson (Dallas)	Relating to the incorporation of climate and precipitation forecasts in state, regional, and local water planning.	Referred to Natural Resources 3/16/2015	Not later than January 5, 2017, and before the end of each successive 5 year period after that date, consideration of the potential effects of climate change and precipitation changes on the water supply in this state, based on forecasts developed under Section 16.057 must be included in the state water plan.
<a href="#">H.B. 2132</a>	Craddick (Midland)	Exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit from a groundwater conservation district; authorizing a fee	Referred to Natural Resources 3/13/2015	Exemption includes drilling or operating a well for livestock or poultry if less than 10 acres and produce less than 25,000 gal/day, supply operations related to oil and gas production, mining activities.
<a href="#">H.B. 1581</a>	Simpson (Longview)	Relating to the duty of a water supply system to provide certain information to consumers regarding fluoride in drinking water.	Referred to Natural Resources 3/09/2015	Fluoridated water disclosure to be displayed conspicuous place on the system's website: amount of naturally occurring fluoride, amount of fluoride added, combined amount from natural and added fluoride. If no website, information required would be in a bill insert sent to customers.
<a href="#">H.B. 928</a>	Guillen (Rio Grande City)	Relating to state and local planning for and responses to drought.	Natural Resources committee left pending 3/11/2015	Council will monitor trends in technologies and effectiveness for water conservation. In addition develop and implement a statewater management resource library and public recognition program for water conservation.
<a href="#">S.B. 78</a>	Ellis (Houston)	Relating to the matters to be considered in developing the state water plan.	Referred to Agriculture, Water, & Rural Affairs 1/26/2015	The state water plan must include: assessment of the best available science pertaining to future water use and availability, evaluation of the state's progress in meeting future water needs as well as analysis of the number of projects including those in the preceding state water plan.

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<a href="#">H.B. 1526</a>	Farrar (Houston)	Relating to construction of detention ponds by TxDOT	Referred to Transportation Committee with public hearing on 4/09/2015	Transportation code is amended that now construction of detention ponds associated with highway projects the department shall consider 1) using a permeable surface for the detention ponds and 2) completing the detention ponds so that it can be used as green space for wildlife and general public. This act takes effect September 1, 2015.
<a href="#">H.C.R. 74</a>	Davis (Dallas)	Relating directing the TWDB and TCEQ to support creation of a model recycling project in an appropriate location.	Referred to Natural Resources 3/19/2015	RESOLVED, That the 84th Texas Legislature direct the board to include the creation of a direct potable-water recycling facility in Region C as a priority for support pursuant to Section 16.1311, Water Code.
<a href="#">H.B. 3019</a>	Kuempel (Seguin)	relating to the competitive bid process for construction during contracting and delivery of construction projects.	Referred to Government Transparency & Operation 3/23/2015	Sec. 2269.060. Acceptability of Construction Materials. The governing body of a governmental entity that considers a construction contract using a method authorized by this chapter may not unreasonably restrict or eliminate the consideration of construction materials used in the contracting and delivery of a construction project. <span style="font-size: small;">☐</span>