

## **Item 5 | Groundwater Legislation Filed | 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session**

The 87<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session began January 12, 2021. There are several bills filed dealing with groundwater. In past legislative sessions, the Board has chosen to create a “position” on any groundwater legislation filed that directly affects the rules or functions of Brazos Valley GCD. The common positions have been “For”, “Opposed”, and “Neutral”. Developing a “position” gives the General Manager clear direction when speaking with representatives and senators.

Below are the groundwater bills filed for board position consideration. The Board has currently taken no position of any of the following bills:

<b>HB 668 by Harris*</b>	Referred to HNRC 3-1-21
<b>SB 152 by Perry*</b>	Sent to House L/C Calendar 5-4-21
<b>HB 966 by Burns</b>	Referred to HNRC 3-1-21
<b>HB 2095 by Wilson</b>	Placed on House General State Calendar 5/10/21
<b>HB 2652 by Larson**</b>	Considered in House Calendars 5-10-21
<b>SB 1039 by Eckhardt**</b>	Referred to SWRAC 3-18-21
<b>HB 2851 by Lucio III</b>	Passed House 5-11-21; Received by Senate 5/12/21
<b>SB 946 by Eckhardt***</b>	Referred to SWRAC 3-11-21
<b>HB 3619 by Bower***</b>	Referred to SWARC 5-6-21
<b>SB 1314 by Lucio</b>	Referred to SWRAC 3-18-21
<b>HB 3801 by Metcalf^</b>	Referred to SWARC 5-4-21
<b>HB 3972 by King</b>	Sent to Calendars 5/8/21
<b>SB 2157 by Creighton^</b>	Referred to SWARC 4-6-21

## **Status of Bills filed**

**SB 152\* (Perry)** – CSSB 152 sponsored by Rep. Harris removed the attorney fees section from the bill. The bill has made it out of HNRC and awaits in L/C Calendars. All the stakeholders agree with all revisions made to the original bill coming out of the Senate. Sections remaining in the bill are:

- Petition for rulemaking
- Notice of permit application or amendment
- Unreasonable DFCs

**HB 668\* (Harris)** – Will not be heard in HNRC; Harris sponsored CSSB 152

**HB 966 (Burns)** – Will likely not be heard in HNRC (Attorney fees)

**HB 2095 Wilson)**

- Filed 2-23-21
- Relating to water research conducted by The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology
- Placed on House General State Calendar 5-10-21

**HB 2652 by Larson\*\***

- Filed 3-2-21 (Identical to SB 1039 by Exkhardt)
- Relating to establishing an advisory board to study surface water and groundwater interaction
- Considered in House Calendars 5-10-21

**SB 1039 by Eckhardt\*\***

- Filed 3-4-21 (Identical to HB 2652 by Larson)
- Relating to establishing an advisory board to study surface water and groundwater interaction
- Will likely not be heard by SWARC

**HB 2851 by Lucio III**

- Filed 3-4-21
- Relating to the consideration of modeled sustainable groundwater pumping in the adoption of desired future conditions in groundwater conservation districts
- Passed out of House 5-11-21; Received by Senate 5/12/21

### **HB 3619 by Bower\*\*\***

- Filed 3-10-21 (Identical to SB 946 by Eckhardt)
- Relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit
- Passed House; Referred to SWARC 5-6-21

### **SB 946 by Eckhardt\*\*\***

- Filed 3-2-21 (Identical to HB 3619 by Bower)
- Relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit
- Will likely not be heard by SWARC

### **HB 3801 by Metcalf^**

- Filed 3-11-21 (Identical to SB 2157 by Creighton)
- Relating to desired future conditions for groundwater that are declared unreasonable.
- Passed House; Referred to SWARC 5-4-21

### **SB 2157 by Creighton^**

- Filed 3-23-21 (Identical to HB 3801 by Metcalf)
- Relating to desired future conditions for groundwater that are declared unreasonable.
- Will likely not be heard by SWARC

### **HB 3972 by King**

- Filed 3-11-21
- Relating to a person obtaining a surety bond before filing a suit against a groundwater conservation district.
- Sent to House Calendars 5-8-21

### **SB 1314 by Lucio**

- Filed 3-10-21
- Relating to a person obtaining a surety bond before filing a suit against a groundwater conservation district.
- Still awaits hearing in SWARC