

Item 6 – Legislative Update – April 2019

Filing date for all bills during the 86th Legislative Session ended Friday, March 8th. There a number of bills that have been filed which directly affect the District. Each of the listed bills have been considered and position adopted. Listed is the current status of the bill and work done to implement board directions. They include:

HB 722 by Larson – Relating to the production of brackish groundwater – NEUTRAL
CSHB 722 passed HRNC 4-2-19. **Passed out of House.**
Received by Senate 4-23-19.

HB 726 by Larson – Omnibus bill relating to the regulation of groundwater – SUPPORT
CSHB 726 passed out HNRC 3-26-19; **Passed out of House.**
Received by Senate 4-16-19.

HB 1066 by Ashby - Relating to extensions of an expired permit for the transfer of
groundwater from a groundwater conservation district – SUPPORT
Passed by House 4-3-19; Referred to SWRAC 4-8-19. **Passed out
of Committee 4-30-19. Placed on Intent Calendar 5-1-19.**

HB 2122 by Harris – Use of CCN by public water suppliers (must control water rights)
NEUTRAL (Bill remains pending in committee)

HB 2123 by Harris – Petitioning the District for rule making NEUTRAL (engage for
improvement). Committee substitute considered allowing rules
petition to be heard in a hearing or regular board meeting and
removed appealable language. Committee substitute passed
HRNC 4-2-19. **Sent to Calendars 4-15-19.**

HB 2125 by Burns – Awarding of Attorney Fees in suits (Award capped at \$100,000)
NEUTRAL (engage to improve language). CSHB 2125 considered
4-2-19 removing cap; bill left pending)

HB 2249 by Lucio – Use of CCN by public water suppliers (no control of water rights)
OPPOSED. Bill heard in HNRC 3-26-19. GM testified opposing the
bill. Left pending in committee)

HB 3998 by Wilson – Transferring regulation of groundwater to the TWDB - OPPOSED
(bill **referred to HNRC 3-21-19** but not heard in committee).

HB 4570 by Larson – Establishing a groundwater/surface water advisory committee –
SUPPORT. Bill heard in committee 4-9-19; **Passed out on
Committee. Sent to Calendars 4-22-19.**

*****HB 2527** by Leach – Relating to a requirement that certain water districts make audio
and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet.
Referred to County Affairs. CSHB 2527 heard in Committee
4-18-19. Reported favorably.

SB 800 by Perry – Identical to HB 1066 – SUPPORT (Referred to SWRAC 3-1-19; not
heard in committee)

SB 851 by Perry – Awarding of Attorney Fees in suits (Award capped at \$250,000) – NEUTRAL (engage to improve language). Bill **passed by Senate 4-17-19. Referred to HNRC 4-24-19.**

SB 1010 by Perry – Adopting Rules Similar to Rules of Other Districts in the GMA – SUPPORT. Passed by Senate 4-4-19; Referred to HNRC 4-8-19). We have working closely with the SWRA committee coordinator to improve language in the bill. We will be involved in a stakeholder meeting with Senator Perry to continued discussions of improving the language 4-18-19. Dropped card in support (SWRAC)

SB 2026 by Perry – Identical to HB 2122 – NEUTRAL. **Passed by Senate 4-29-19.** Referred to HNRC 5-2-19.

SB 2027 by Perry – Standard of judicial review for groundwater de novo - OPPOSED Heard in SWRA committee 4-15-19. **Left pending in committee.** Sen. Perry indicated this would be addressed and worked on in the Interim.

*****SB 1732** by Paxton - Relating to a requirement that certain water districts make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet. Referred to Business & Commerce 3-14-19. Passed out of Committee. Placed on Local & Uncontested Calendar. Placed on Intent Calendar 5-6-19.

Each of these bills were discussed at length during the March 14th board meeting and positions on the bills were determined. *****New bills affecting administration of the District.**