

BILL	AUTHOR	STATUS	ACTION REQUESTED	COMMENTS
HB 668 (666)	Harris	Filed 11/30/2020		<p>GCD LEGISLATION</p> <p><u>ATTORNEY'S FEES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amends §36.066, Water Code to change “shall” to “may” regarding court granting GCD attorney fees if GCD prevails
SB152	Perry	Filed 11/10/2020		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Makes same change to all GCD enabling acts <p><u>PETITION FOR RULEMAKING</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - adds §36.1025 to allow a person with groundwater rights in the GCD to petition to adopt or modify a GCD rule. - requires petitioner to provide written notice to all affected by proposed rule - GCD must grant or deny petition within 90 days after a hearing and GCD “<u>shall provide an explanation for the action the district takes on the petition, including a determination about the consistency of the action with the concerns raised by the petitioner’s explanation</u>” - GCD shall engage in granted rulemaking as soon as practicable <p><u>NOTICE REQUIRED FOR PERMIT APPLICATION/AMENDMENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amends §36.114(h) and adds §36.1141, Water Code, is amended to require permit (or amendment) applicant to “<u>provide notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each person with a real property interest in the groundwater beneath the land within the space prescribed by the district’s spacing rules for the proposed or existing well</u>” before the application can be administratively complete. The people receiving notice are deemed to have “<u>a personal justiciable interest</u>” to “<u>contest the application for the permit or permit amendment.</u>”

HB 966	Burns	Filed 1/05/2021		<p><i>ATTORNEY'S FEES</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amends §§36.066 and 36.102, Water Code to change “shall” to “may” regarding court granting GCD attorney fees if GCD prevails - Makes same change to all GCD enabling acts
HB 2652 SB 1039	Larson Eckhardt	Filed 03/02/2021 Filed 03/04/2021		<p>Establishes an advisory board to study surface water and groundwater interaction</p> <p>--includes “one person to represent the interests of groundwater conservation districts, recommended by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and appointed jointly by the chairs of the house natural resources committee and the senate water and rural affairs committee”</p>
HB 2851	Lucio	Filed 03/04/2021		<p>Section 36.001, Water Code, is amended:</p> <p><u>(32) "Modeled sustainable groundwater pumping" means the maximum amount of groundwater that the executive administrator determines may be produced in perpetuity from an aquifer on an annual basis using the best available science.</u></p> <p>Amends Section 36.108 (DFCs):</p> <p>(d) the districts shall consider:</p> <p>***</p> <p>(3) hydrological conditions, including for each aquifer in the management area the total estimated recoverable storage <u>and modeled sustainable groundwater pumping</u> as provided by the executive administrator, and the average annual recharge, inflows, and discharge;</p> <p><u>(d-5) Notwithstanding Subsection (d)(3), the executive administrator may not calculate the modeled sustainable groundwater pumping for an aquifer located in a management area that wholly or partly overlies an aquifer with a recharge rate such that an owner of land that overlies the</u></p>

				<u>aquifer qualifies under federal tax law for a cost depletion deduction for the groundwater withdrawn from the aquifer for irrigation purposes.</u>
SB 946	Eckhardt (Language was previously filed in 2017 by Chairman King)	Filed 03/02/2021		(d) ... Before granting or denying a permit, or a permit amendment issued in accordance with Section <u>36.1146</u> , the district shall consider whether: *** (2) the proposed use of water unreasonably affects: (A) existing groundwater and surface water resources; [ø] (B) existing permit holders; or (C) <u>wells that are exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit under this chapter or district rules</u>
				WATER LEGISLATION TO WATCH
HB 152	Buckley	Filed 11/09/2020		TWDB study for a scientific inquiry and analysis regarding current and projected groundwater production and to assess the effects of that production on groundwater conditions for the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers north of the Colorado River in Bell, Burnet, Milam, Travis, and Williamson Counties ”
SB 307	Eckhardt	Filed 1-11-21		Adds §13.551, Water Code, to apply “ <u>only to transmission of water by a pipeline of more than 24 inches in diameter</u> ” to state “ <u>A person may transmit potable water by pipeline across two or more county lines for the purpose of providing wholesale water service only if the person is a local government corporation created under Subchapter D, Chapter 431, Transportation Code, to aid and act on behalf of the counties through which the pipeline travels.</u> ”
HB 2619	Wilson	Filed 03/02/2021		Relating to the creation and administration of the On-The-Ground Conservation Program by the State Soil and Water Conservation Board.
HB 2095	Wilson	Filed 02/23/2021		Relating to water research conducted by The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology.

				<p>SUBTITLE G. WATER RESEARCH</p> <p>CHAPTER 39. INTEGRATED WATER RESEARCH</p> <p>Sec. 39.0101. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "bureau" means The University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology.</p> <p>Sec. 39.0102. MONITORING AND MODELING. (a) The bureau shall collect monitoring data related to surface water and groundwater and the integration of surface water and groundwater. For purposes of this section, the bureau may collect data related to soil or atmospheric moisture, if appropriate.</p> <p>(b) The bureau shall use the data collected under Subsection (a) to create a system of comprehensive surface water and groundwater models, including models of the integration of surface water and groundwater.</p> <p>Sec. 39.0103. COOPERATION. As is necessary to carry out its duties under this chapter, the bureau may cooperate with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Texas A&M University; (2) Texas Tech University; (3) a state agency; or (4) a private entity. <p>Sec. 39.0104. RESULTS. The bureau shall make the results of the monitoring and modeling required by this chapter available to state agencies and state institutions of higher education.</p> <p>Sec. 39.0105. PUBLIC INFORMATION EXEMPTION. The data and models produced as required by this chapter are not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.</p>
HB2863	Kuempel	Filed 3-4-21		Relating to the storage and recovery of water in a portion of the Edwards Aquifer.
				LEGISLATION AFFECTING POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, INCLUDING GCDS
HB 634	Morales	Filed 11-23-20		Relating to the type of newspaper required for the publication of notices by governmental entities or representatives in certain counties.

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gives third option for newspaper of general circulation for governmental entity notices to be published in the county as the commissioners court designate it by official action “<u>as the newspaper for publication of notices</u>”
HB 749 SB 234	Middleton Hall	Filed 12-07-20		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prohibits a political subdivision from spending public funds on hiring a registered lobbyist or pay a nonprofit associations or organization that primarily represents political subdivisions and hires lobbyists. - Authorizes taxpayer or resident of political subdivision that violates paid lobbying prohibition to get injunctive relief and recover attorney fees
HB 768	Patterson	Filed 12-08-20		<p>Relating to the requirement that certain governmental bodies make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires “<u>and any political subdivision located wholly or partly in a county that has a population of 5,000 or more</u>” to make a video and audio recording of reasonable quality of each regularly scheduled open meeting that is not a work session or a special called meeting; and make available an archived copy of the video and audio recording of each meeting
HB 1030	Shaheen	Filed 1-08-21		<p>Relating to the publication of required notice by a political subdivision by alternative media.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a political subdivision “<u>may satisfy a requirement in any other law to provide notice by publication in a newspaper by publishing the notice</u>” on another media or internet website has a “<u>greater circulation than the newspaper with the greatest circulation in the political subdivision</u>” - provides method for doing this and includes social media, utility bills, etc.

HB 1154	Jetton	Filed 1-15-21		<p>Relating to the requirement that certain political subdivisions cause certain information to be posted on an Internet website (applies to most taxing GCDs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amends § 403.0241(c), Government Code, to require the Texas Comptroller’s SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT PUBLIC INFORMATION DATABASE to include special purpose district's internet website - Amends TOMA to require <u>“A district shall provide links to Internet websites used by the district to comply with Section 2051.153, Government Code, and Section 26.18, Tax Code, on the district's Internet website if the district maintains an Internet website</u> - <u>Requires taxing special districts that have outstanding bonds or over \$250,000 of debt or cash/temporary investments over \$250,000 and has over 500 people required list of information on the political subdivision’s website</u>
HB 1473	Gates	Filed 1/29/2021		<p>Relating to the requirements for meetings held and Internet websites developed by certain special purpose districts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Requires water districts subject to Chapter 51, 53, 54, or 55, Water Code, that has a population of 500 or more, have a website that includes listed information, including live stream and video recordings of meetings
SB 526	Kolkhorst	Filed 1/29/2021		
HB 1810 SB 928	Capriglione Zaffirini	Filed 2-10-21 Filed 3-2-21		<p>relating to maintenance and production of electronic public information under the public information law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>If a request for public information applies to electronic public information and the requestor requests the electronic public information in a searchable or sortable format, the governmental</u>

				<p><u>body shall provide an electronic copy of the requested electronic public information in the searchable or sortable format requested using computer software the governmental body has in its possession. If the requestor prefers, the governmental body shall provide a copy of electronic public information in the form of a paper printout.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>A requestor may request that a copy of electronic public information be provided in the format in which the information is maintained by the governmental body or in a standard export format such as a flat file electronic American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII) if the governmental body's computer programs support exporting the information in that format.</u>
HB 1888	Fierro	Filed 2-12-21		Relating to the authority of all governmental bodies to hold open and closed meetings by telephone or videoconference call.
HB 2500	Bailes	Filed 3-1-21		Relating to Internet posting of notice by governmental entities and representatives as an alternative to newspaper publication of notice.
HB 2578	Leach	Filed 3-2-21		Relating to the comptroller's establishment and operation of a public information Internet website
HB 2683 SB 924	Canales Zaffirini	Filed 3-3-21 Filed 3-2-21		Relating to requirements for open meetings that are broadcast over the Internet or held by telephone conference or videoconference call.
HB 2789	Vasut	Filed 3-3-21		Relating to charges imposed by a governmental body for providing copies of public information under the public information law.
SB 639 HB 2560	Menéndez Martinez	Filed 2-10-21 Filed 3-1-21		<p>relating to remote meetings under the open meetings law.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Without regard to whether a member of the governmental body is participating in a meeting from a remote location by telephone conference call, a governmental body may allow a member of the public to speak at a meeting from a remote location by telephone conference call.</u> - If in video board meeting, a board member is disconnected shall be considered absent and The governmental body may continue the

				<p>meeting only if <u>members in a number sufficient to constitute a quorum of the body remain audible and visible to each other and, during the open portion of the meeting, to the public</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - (b) A meeting may be held by videoconference call only if <u>the member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting is physically present at the location specified under Subsection (e)(1)</u> <p>(e) The notice of a meeting to be held by videoconference call must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) <u>specify as the location of the meeting the location where the member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting will be physically present;</u> (2) <u>indicate that the meeting will be held by videoconference call under this section;</u> (3) <u>list each physical location where members of the public may observe or participate in the meeting, including:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (A) <u>any location that is open to the public where a member of the governmental body intends to participate in the meeting; and</u> (B) <u>any facility provided by the governmental body for members of the public to observe or speak at the meeting;</u> (4) <u>include access information for both audio-only and audiovisual feeds of the meeting; and</u> - (5) <u>if applicable, include instructions for a member of the public to speak at the meeting from a remote location or while physically present at a location described by Subdivision (3)</u> - <u>The location where the member of the governmental body presiding over the meeting is physically present shall be open to the public during the open portions of the meeting.</u>
SB 861	Paxton	Filed 2-26-21		Relating to remote meetings under the open meetings law.

SB 923	Zaffirini	Filed 3-2-21		Relating to open government.