BILL	AUTHOR	STATUS	COMMENTS 2-6-25
HB 638	Tepper	Filed 11/12/24	Relating to a requirement that certain water districts make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet. Requires Chapter 36 GCD, among other entities, to: (1) make a video and audio recording of reasonable quality of each: (A) regularly scheduled open meeting that is not a work session or a special called meeting; and ***
			(2) make available an archived copy of the video and audio recording of each meeting described by Subdivision (1) on the Internet.
HB 1050	Dorazio	Filed 11/12/24 This bill requires loser pay attorney fees to prevailing part. If GCD gets sued and loses in court, this would require GCD to pay plaintiff's attny fees.	Relating to the award of attorney's fees in certain suits involving a groundwater conservation district.SECTION 1. Sections 36.066(g) and (h), Water Code, are amended to read as follows [applies to suits filed after 9/1/25]: (g) Except for [If the district prevails in any suit other than] a suit in which a district [it] voluntarily intervenes, the prevailing party in a suit governed by this section [district] may seek and the court shall grant, in the interests of justice and as provided by Subsection (h), in the same action, recovery for attorney's fees, costs for expert witnesses, and other costs incurred by the prevailing party [district] before the court. The amount of the attorney's fees shall be fixed by the court. (h) The court shall award to a prevailing party that [If the district] prevails on some, but not all, of the issues in the suit [, the court shall award] attorney's fees and costs only for those issues on which the party [district] prevails. The prevailing party [district] has the burden of segregating the attorney's fees and costs in order for the court to make an award.
HB 873 SB 279	Wilson Johnson (similar)	Filed 11/12/24 Filed 1/7/25	Relating to air quality permits for aggregate production operations and concrete batch plants. Requires notice to GCDs for air quality permits for aggregate production operations and concrete batch plants
SB 444	Hinojosa	Filed 11/21/24	Relating to a requirement that certain special purpose districts cause certain information to be posted on an Internet website. Continues to exempt from TOMA requirement that GCDs put certain Financial and Operating Information on website

HB 1382	Virdell	Filed 11/18/24	Relating to a prohibition on weather modification and control; creating a criminal offense.Eliminates the weather modification program, effective 9/1/2025.
			Makes it a Class A misdemeanor for everyday a person engages in weather modification.
SB 480	Perry	Filed 11/22/24	Relating to the authority of a local government to enter into an interlocal contract with
			certain governmental entities to participate in water research or planning activities.
			SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 791, Government Code, is amended by adding
			Section 791.038 to read as follows: Sec. 791.038. CONTRACTS FOR WATER RESEARCH OR PLANNING. A local
			government may contract with another local government, the state, or the federal government
			to jointly participate in research or planning activities related to water resources.
SB?	Perry		Water bill to create 10 to 11 million acre-feet shortfall of new developed water
SB 448	Hinojosa	Filed 11/21/24	Public/Private Cost Sharing for Desalination Projects
	5		Sec. 2267.067. COST SHARING REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN QUALIFYING
			PROJECTS. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), a comprehensive agreement or service contract
			for a qualifying project authorizing the operation of a desalination facility, including a
			brackish water desalination facility, shall require a private entity to pay at least 50 percent of
			the energy costs to operate the facility.
			(b) This section applies only after a desalination facility charges the first customer for water
1101400		11.10.04	produced by the facility.
HB1400 SB 718	Harris Kolkhorst	11-19-24	Relating to creation of the groundwater science, research, and innovation fund to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board.
SB /18	Kolknorst		SECTION 1. Chapter 15, Water Code, is amended by adding Subchapter F-1 to read as
			follows:
			SUBCHAPTER F-1. GROUNDWATER SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION
			FUND
			Sec. 15.421. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:
			(1) "District" means a groundwater conservation district created under Section 52, Article
			III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, that has the authority to regulate the
			spacing of wells producing from groundwater reservoirs in the district and regulate the
			production from those wells.
			(2) "Fund" means the groundwater science, research, and innovation fund.
			Sec. 15.422. GROUNDWATER SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION FUND.

	(a) The groundwater science, research, and innovation fund is a special fund in the state
	treasury to be administered by the board under this subchapter and rules adopted by the
	board under this subchapter.
	(b) The fund consists of:
	(1) money appropriated for transfer or deposit to the credit of the fund;
	(2) money the board transfers to the fund from any available source;
	(3) depository interest allocable to the fund and other investment returns on money in
	the fund;
	(4) money from gifts, grants, or donations to the fund; and
	(5) any other fees or sources of revenue that the legislature may dedicate for deposit to
	the fund.
	Sec. 15.423. USE OF FUND. (a) The board may use the fund only to provide financial
	assistance in the form of grants to finance district programs and projects that will further
	groundwater science, research, and innovation in this state, including local research, data,
	modeling, and innovative programs and projects designed to:
	(1) improve understanding of local groundwater conditions;
	(2) develop or improve groundwater models relied on for planning and decision-making;
	(3) improve groundwater use efficiency and increase water conservation efforts;
	(4) increase groundwater recharge; or
	(5) protect groundwater quality.
	(b) The fund may be used for any purpose described by Subsection (a) under criteria
	developed by the board.
	Sec. 15.424. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. The board shall adopt rules necessary to
	administer this subchapter, including rules establishing procedures for the application for
	and award of financial assistance, the distribution of financial assistance, and the
	administration of financial assistance and the fund.
	Sec. 15.425. EVALUATION OF APPLICATION. (a) When evaluating an application for
	financial assistance from a district, the board shall consider:
	(1) the expected benefit of the program or project in informing the management,
	planning, or decision-making of the district;
	(2) whether the program or project meets any science, data, and modeling objectives of
	the board;
	(3) the extent to which the program's or project's outcome may benefit the state and

			 regional water planning processes under Sections 16.051 and 16.053; and (4) the district's need for financial assistance based on the district's available revenue or other sources of financial assistance available to the district. (b) The board by resolution may approve an application if, after considering the factors listed in Subsection (a) and other relevant factors, the board finds that the public interest is served by state assistance for the program or project and the district has met the matching funds requirement under Section 15.426. (c) The board shall ensure that a district that receives financial assistance for a program or project provides the board with all data, science, and other research findings gathered through the implementation of the program or project for which the district received financial assistance. (d) The board shall ensure that at least 35 percent of the money transferred from the fund is used to fund programs or projects by districts with: (1) populations of not more than 100,000; and (2) annual revenues of not more than \$250,000, as determined at the close of the previous fiscal year.
			that is the recipient of a grant using money from the fund to provide matching funds, which
			may include direct expenditures or in-kind services related to the program or project, in an amount equal to 25 percent of the amount of the grant.
HB1523	Gerdes	12- 5-24	Relating to a prohibition on the authorization by the Texas Commission on
1101020			Environmental Quality of the use of a Class V injection well for certain aquifer storage
			and recovery projects.
			SECTION 1. Subchapter G, Chapter 27, Water Code, is amended by adding Section 27.1535 to read as follows:
			Sec. 27.1535. CERTAIN AUTHORIZATIONS PROHIBITED. (a) This section
			applies only to a Class V injection well located in any portion of the territory of a groundwater conservation district that is located wholly or partly in a county that:
			(1) has a population of more than 70,000 and less than 100,000 and contains
			a portion of the Colorado River; and
			(2) is adjacent to a county that has a population of one million or more.
			(b) The commission may not authorize the use of a Class V injection well for an
			aquifer storage and recovery project operated by a municipally owned utility that primarily

			provides water to a municipality that: (1) has a population of 750,000 or more; and (2) is located in a county adjacent to a county described by Subsection (a).
HB1529	Goodwin	12- 5-24	relating to production fees imposed by the Southwestern Travis County GroundwaterConservation District; authorizing an increase in the rate of the fee.SECTION 1. Section 8871.154, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended toread as follows:Sec. 8871.154. PRODUCTION FEE. The district may impose reasonable productionfees on each well that is not exempt from permitting under Section 8871.103 based on theamount of water actually withdrawn from the well. The district may not impose a productionfee under this section in an amount greater than 50 [20] cents per thousand gallons.
HB1618	Harris Davila	12-13-24	relating to aquifer storage and recovery projects that transect a portion of the Edwards Aquifer.SECTION 1. Section 27.051(i), Water Code, is amended to read as follows: (i) For purposes of this subsection, "Edwards Aquifer" has the meaning assigned by Section 26.046(a). Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the commission may not
SB 616	Schwertner	12-13-24	authorize by rule or permit an injection well that transects or terminates in the Edwards Aquifer. The commission by rule <u>or permit</u> may authorize: (1) injection of groundwater withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer; (2) injections of storm water, flood water, or groundwater through improved sinkholes or caves located in karst topographic areas; [or] (3) injections of water made in accordance with Section 1.44(e)(3), Chapter 626, Acts of the 73rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1993; or (4) an aquifer storage and recovery project that includes an ASR injection well, as defined under Section 27.151, that transects the Edwards Aquifer in the area of Williamson County east of Interstate Highway 35 for the injection of water into a geologic formation that underlies the Edwards Aquifer.
HB1633	Gerdes	12-16-24	relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before
SB 624	Kolkhorst	12-16-24	 granting or denying a permit or permit amendment. SECTION 1. Section 36.113(d), Water Code, is amended to read as follows: (d) This subsection does not apply to the renewal of an operating permit issued under

			Section 36.1145. Before granting or denying a permit, or a permit amendment issued in
			accordance with Section 36.1146, the district shall consider whether:
			(1) the application conforms to the requirements prescribed by this chapter
			and is accompanied by the prescribed fees;
			(2) the proposed use of water unreasonably affects:
			(A) existing groundwater and surface water resources; $[\Theta r]$
			(B) existing permit holders: or
			(C) wells that are registered with the district and exempt from the
			requirement to obtain a permit under this chapter or district rules;
			(3) the proposed use of water is dedicated to any beneficial use;
			(4) the proposed use of water is consistent with the district's approved
			management plan;
			(5) if the well will be located in the Hill Country Priority Groundwater
			Management Area, the proposed use of water from the well is wholly or partly to provide
			water to a pond, lake, or reservoir to enhance the appearance of the landscape;
			(6) the applicant has agreed to avoid waste and achieve water conservation;
			and
			(7) the applicant has agreed that reasonable diligence will be used to protect
			groundwater quality and that the applicant will follow well plugging guidelines at the time of
			well closure.
HB1689	Gerdes	12-20-24	relating to the use of certain groundwater export fees collected by a groundwater
			conservation district.
			SECTION 1. Section 36.207, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b)
			and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:
			(b) A district may use funds obtained from the amount that an export fee is increased
			under Section 36.122(e-1) on or after January 1, 2024, only for costs related to assessing and
			addressing impacts associated with groundwater development, including:
			(1) maintaining operability of wells significantly affected by groundwater
			development, including wells located outside the district;
			(2) developing or distributing alternative water supplies; and
			(2) developing of distributing alternative water supplies, and (3) conducting aquifer monitoring, data collection, and aquifer science.
			(c) A district may use funds described by Subsection (b) to maintain the operability
			of wells described by Subsection (b)(1) that are located in another district only if the district
			or wens described by Subsection (6)(1) that are rocated in another district only if the district

			enters into an interlocal contract under Chapter 791, Government Code, with the other district
			authorizing the funds to be used for that purpose.
HB1690	Gerdes	12-20-24	relating to an application for a permit for the transfer of groundwater out of a
			groundwater conservation district.
			SECTION 1. Section 36.122, Water Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d-1) to
			read as follows:
			(d-1) The district shall adopt rules requiring that notice be given for an application
			filed to comply with this section. The notice must be:
			(1) paid for by the applicant;
			(2) sent by certified mail to:
			(A) each district that is adjacent to the district considering the
			application;
			(B) the commissioners court of each county in which the district
			considering the application is located; and
			(C) the commissioners court of each county in which a district that
			receives notice under Paragraph (A) is located; and
			(3) published in:
			(A) a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the
			district considering the application is located; and
			(B) a newspaper of general circulation in each county in which a district that receives notice under Subdivision (2)(A) is located.
			district that receives notice under Subdivision (2)(A) is located.
HB2034	Gerdes	1-23-25	Relating to the issuance of groundwater permits to certain aliens or foreign entities.
111111111111111111111111111111111111111	Genues	1 20 20	returning to the issuance of ground water permits to certain allens of foreign entities.
HB2077	Gerdes	1-24-25	Relating to persons eligible to appeal the desired future conditions adopted by a
			groundwater conservation district.
			Section 36.1083(a)(1), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:
			(1) "Affected person" has the meaning assigned by Section 36.3011
			[36.1082].
			Sec. 36.3011. COMMISSION INQUIRY AND ACTION REGARDING
			DISTRICT DUTIES. (a) In this section, "affected person" means, with respect to a
			management area:
			(1) an owner of land in the management area;

			 (2) a groundwater conservation district or subsidence district in or adjacent to the management area; (3) a regional water planning group with a water management strategy in the management area; (4) a person who holds or is applying for a permit from a district in the management area; (5) a person with a legally defined interest in groundwater in the management area; or (6) any other person defined as affected by commission rule.
HB2078	Gerdes	1-24-25	Relating to the joint planning of desired future conditions in groundwater management areas. SECTION 1. Section 36.1071(e), Water Code, is amended to read as follows: (e) In the management plan described under Subsection (a), the district shall: (5) include an explanation in plain language of how: (A) the district is monitoring and tracking the achievement of the desired future conditions established under Section 36.108; and (B) the district has performed in achieving the desired future conditions established under Section 36.108 over the preceding five-year joint planning period. SECTION 2. Section 36.108, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c) and (d-3) and adding Subsections (c-1) and (d-5) to read as follows: (c) The district representatives shall meet at least annually to conduct joint planning with the other districts in the management area. The representatives shall [amd+to] review; (1) [the management plans;] the accomplishments of the management area; (2) [-and] proposals to adopt new or amend existing desired future conditions; and (3) not less than once during each five-year period described by Subsection (d), the management plans of each district in the management area. (c-1) In reviewing the management plans under Subsection (c), the districts shall consider: (4) the degree to which each district is achieving [management plan achieves] the desired future conditions established during the joint planning process through the

			investorian af the districtly many several stars and seles
			implementation of the district's management plan and rules.
			(12)
			(d-3)
			(6) include an explanation in plain language of why a desired future condition
			adopted for an aquifer was changed if the desired future condition is different from the desired
			future condition adopted for the aquifer over the preceding five-year joint planning period;
			and
			(7) include a summary of how each district is performing in achieving the
			desired future conditions.
			(d-5) The districts and district representatives:
			(1) shall adopt desired future conditions under this section for each 50-year
			planning period identified by the executive administrator for the preparation of state and
			regional water plans;
			(2) shall identify interim values for the desired future conditions adopted
			under Subdivision (1) for time periods not to exceed 10 years solely to assist the districts in
			monitoring interim progress in achieving the desired future conditions adopted for the 50-
			year planning period; and
			(3) may adopt desired future conditions under this section for other time
			periods.
			periods.
HB2080	Gerdes	1-24-25	Relating to the review of the duties of a groundwater conservation district by the
			Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
			SECTION 1. Section 36.3011, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d)
			and adding Subsections (d-1), (d-2), (d-3), (e-1), (e-2), and (e-3) to read as follows:
			(d-1) A review panel established under Subsection (d) is an advisory body to the
			commission and not a governmental body under Chapter 551 or 552, Government Code.
			(d-2) The commission shall reimburse a member appointed to the review panel for
			actual expenses incurred while engaging in activities on behalf of the review panel. To be
			eligible for reimbursement, the member must file with the executive director a verified
			statement, including any relevant receipts, describing the expenses incurred. A member
			appointed to the review panel is not entitled to a fee of office or other compensation for
			serving on the review panel.
			(d-3) The records and documents of the recording secretary of the proceedings of the

			review panel must be provided to the executive director and are public information under
			Chapter 552, Government Code.
			(e-1) Not later than the seventh day before the date of a public meeting or public
			hearing of the review panel under Subsection (e), the executive director shall provide notice
			of any public meeting or public hearing the review panel is directed to conduct by:
			(1) posting notice on the commission's Internet website; and
			(2) delivering notice by regular mail to:
			(A) the district that is the subject of the petition;
			(B) the petitioner; and
			(C) the county clerk of each county in the district that is the subject of
			the petition.
			(e-2) The commission or the review panel may submit a written request to the
			executive administrator for assistance on a technical issue related to the petition. The
			executive administrator shall provide the technical assistance not later than the 120th day
			after the date the executive administrator receives the request. A deadline under Subsection
			(c), (e), or (h) is extended by 120 days if a request for technical assistance is submitted to the
			executive administrator during a review phase under that subsection.
			(e-3) On request from a member of the review panel, the office of public interest
			counsel of the commission shall provide legal advice and assistance to the review panel.
			Notwithstanding Section 5.273, the office of public interest counsel:
			(1) may not participate as a party in an inquiry under this section; and
			(2) has no duty or responsibility to represent the public interest or otherwise
			in an inquiry except as provided by this subsection.
SB 976	Eckhardt	1-29-25	Relating to the establishment of an advisory board to study surface water and groundwater interaction.
SB 863	Perry	1-22-25	Relating to the use of water withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer.
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			SECTION 1. Section 1.34(b), Chapter 626, Acts of the 73rd Legislature, Regular
			Session, 1993, is amended to read as follows:
			(b) Water withdrawn from the aquifer must be used within:
			(1) the boundaries of the authority; or
			(2) the certificated area of a retail public utility according to a certificate of
			convenience and necessity, as the certificate existed on September 1, 2025, any part of which

			was located within the boundaries of the authority on June 28, 1996.
HB 1971 SB 879	Darby Birdwell	1-22-25	Relating to an exemption for drillers or operators of closed-loop geothermal injection wells from certain requirements applicable to persons involved in activities under the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas.
			SECTION 1. Section 27.037, Water Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows: (c-1) Sections 85.2021 and 91.142, Natural Resources Code, do not apply to a person who submits a request for authorization or is authorized to use a valid permit by rule issued by the railroad commission under this section. SECTION 2. Section 27.037, Water Code, as amended by this Act, applies to a permit application or materially amended permit application that is filed with the Railroad Commission of Texas on or after the effective date of this Act.
HB 309	Leo- Wilson		Relating to the use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying and certain other activities.
			Would amend Ch 556, government code, by adding sec. 556.0056 that would prohibit political subdivisions from spending public funds to hire a lobbyist or pay a nonprofit state association or organization that primarily represents political subdivisions and hires or contracts with a lobbyist.
HB571	Cain		Relating to the use by a political subdivision of public funds for lobbying and certain other activities.
HB 671	Shaheen		Would amend Ch 556, government code, by adding sec. 556.0056 that would prohibit political subdivisions from spending public funds to hire a lobbyist or pay a nonprofit state association or organization that primarily represents political subdivisions and hires or contracts with a lobbyist. Would not include a full-time employee of a nonprofit state association or organization from providing legislative services, communication directly with members of the legislature to provide information, or testifying before a legislative committee.
HB 638	Tepper		Relating to a requirement that certain water districts make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet.

			Would amend sec. 551.128(b-1), government code, to include districts governed by Ch 36, 49, or 60 of the water code to the list of entities required to record board meetings in both video and audio formats and make those recordings accessible online.
HB 948	Harrison	11-12-24	Relating to the required posting by governmental entities of employee contracts and compensation on entity Internet websites
			Would add Ch 621 to the government code, requiring all political subdivisions and state agencies to publish employee contracts and compensation on their websites, with penalties for noncompliance.
HB 1080	Curry	11-12-24	Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to issue debt to purchase or lease tangible personal property.
HB 1522	Gerdes	12-04-24	Relating to notice of a meeting held under the open meetings law . Would amend sec 551.043, government code, by requiring that notice of a meeting be posted at least 3 business days before the meeting date, replacing the current requirement of 72 hrs. Would also require that any notice of a meeting at which a government body will discuss or adopt a budget, must include a physical copy of the budget.
HB 2422	Goodwin	2-4-25	 relating to seller's disclosures regarding water services for and water rights in residential real property. SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 5, Property Code, is amended by adding Section 5.0131 to read as follows: Sec. 5.0131. NOTICE OF GROUNDWATER AND SURFACE WATER RIGHTS. (a) This section applies only to the sale of a fee simple interest in residential real property located in this state comprising not more than one dwelling unit and land on which the dwelling is located. (b) A seller of residential real property to which this section applies shall provide the purchaser of the property with a written notice describing the groundwater and surface water rights conveyed with the property. (c) The Texas Real Estate Commission shall develop and publish the form for the written notice required under Subsection (b). The form must require the seller to disclose information concerning: (1) whether the conveyance of the property includes any groundwater rights; (2) whether the conveyance of the property includes any surface water rights; (3) whether there are any water wells located on the property; and

			 (4) if the property is located in a groundwater conservation district or a subsidence district, the name and any relevant information concerning the applicable district. (d) The notice must be delivered by the seller on or before the effective date of an executory contract binding the purchaser to purchase the property. If a contract is entered without the seller providing the notice as required by this section, the purchaser may terminate the contract for any reason not later than the seventh day after the effective date of the receiving of the notice. (e) The appropriate use of forms published by the Texas Real Estate Commission under this section constitutes compliance with this section.
HB 2347	Zweiner	2-3-25	 relating to the adoption of a water conservation program by certain counties. SECTION 1. Chapter 562, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Subchapter C to read as follows: SUBCHAPTER C. WATER CONSERVATION Sec. 562.051. WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS FOR CERTAIN COUNTIES. (a) This section applies only to a county that contains, wholly or partly, a priority groundwater management area as designated under Section 35.007, Water Code. (b) The commissioners court of a county by order may adopt a water conservation program. Except as provided by Subsection (c), a water conservation program adopted under this section may establish for the unincorporated area of the county, including the extraterritorial jurisdiction of a municipality, water conservation standards applicable to a development, redevelopment, or subdivision of a tract of land that begins after August 31, 2025. (c) Water conservation standards established under Subsection (b) do not apply to an agricultural operation, as defined by Section 251.002, Agriculture Code. (d) To the extent of a conflict between a county order adopted under this section and a municipal ordinance regulating the same conduct, the ordinance prevails.