BILL	AUTHOR	STATUS	COMMENTS 3-13-25
HB 1050	Dorazio	Filed 11/12/24	Relating to the award of attorney's fees in certain suits involving a groundwater
			conservation district.
		This bill requires	SECTION 1. Sections 36.066(g) and (h), Water Code, are amended to read as follows
		loser pay attorney	[applies to suits filed after 9/1/25]:
		fees to prevailing	(g) Except for [If the district prevails in any suit other than] a suit in which a district
		part.	[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
		If GCD gets sued	the same action, recovery for attorney's fees, costs for expert witnesses, and other costs incurred
		and loses in court,	by the <u>prevailing party</u> [district] before the court. The amount of the attorney's fees shall be
		this would require	fixed by the court.
		GCD to pay	(h) The court shall award to a prevailing party that [If the district] prevails on some,
		plaintiff's attny fees.	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 <u>party</u> [district] prevails. The <u>prevailing party</u> [district] has the burden
			of segregating the attorney's fees and costs in order for the court to make an award.
HB 2805	DeAyala	2-13-25	relating to civil actions related to groundwater conservation districts.
			SECTION 1. Section 36.066, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a),
			(g), and (h) and adding Subsection (g-1) to read as follows:
			(a) A district may sue and be sued in the courts of this state in the name of the district
			by and through its board. A district board member is immune from personal [suit and immune]
			from] liability for official votes and official actions. To the extent an official vote or official
			action conforms to laws relating to conflicts of interest, abuse of office, or constitutional
			obligations, this subsection provides immunity for those actions. All courts shall take judicial notice of the creation of the district and of its boundaries.
			(g) If the <u>trial court finds by clear and convincing evidence that an administrative</u>
			proceeding brought against a district and appealed to the court or a suit brought against a district
			was groundless and brought in bad faith [district prevails in any suit other than a suit in which
			it voluntarily intervenes], the 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 reasonable and
			necessary attorney's fees, costs for expert witnesses and depositions, and other costs incurred
			by the district in the proceeding or suit [before the court].
			(g-1) If the trial court finds by clear and convincing evidence that a district has

			intentionally violated the statutory or constitutional rights of a groundwater rights owner, the
			rights owner may seek and the court shall grant, in the interests of justice and as provided by
			Subsection (h), in the same action, recovery for reasonable and necessary attorney's fees, costs
			for expert witnesses and depositions, and other costs incurred by the rights owner in:
			(1) an administrative proceeding appealed to the court and arising from the
			rights violation; and
			(2) a suit arising from the rights violation. [The amount of the attorney's fees
			shall be fixed by the court.]
			(h) The court shall determine the amount of attorney's fees awarded under this section.
			If the district or groundwater rights owner prevails on some, but not all, of the issues in the
			proceeding or suit, the court shall award attorney's fees and costs under this section only for
			those issues on which the district or rights owner prevails. The district or rights owner, as
			applicable, has the burden of segregating the attorney's fees and costs in order for the court to
			make an award.
			SECTION 2. Section 36.066, Water Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to an
			action filed on or after the effective date of this Act. An action filed before the effective date
			of this Act is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this
			Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.
HB4138	Bell	Filed 03/10/2025	Relating to the expiration date of certain permits issued by groundwater conservation
			districts.
			SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 36, Water Code, is amended
			by adding Section 36.1141 to read as follows:
			Sec. 36.1141. EXPIRATION OF PERMITS SUBJECT TO LITIGATION.
			(a) A district shall delay the expiration date of a drilling,
			operating, or transfer permit, and the expiration of any associated
			permits issued to the permit holder by the district, if the
			expiration date occurs while the drilling, operating, or transfer
			permit holder is a party to litigation concerning the issuance or
			validity of the permit.
			(b) The district shall delay the expiration date until:
			(1) if the litigation ultimately results in the permit
			being held to be valid, the two-year anniversary of the date on
	1		

	1	I	
			which a final, non-appealable judgment in the litigation concerning
			the permit is issued; or
			(2) if the litigation ultimately results in the permit
			being held invalid, the date on which a final, non-appealable
			judgment in the litigation concerning the permit is issued.
			(c) This section does not apply to litigation initiated by
			the permit holder.
			(d) This section does not apply to a permit holder who:
			(1) is delinquent in paying a fee required by the
			district;
			(2) is subject to a pending enforcement action for a
			substantive violation of a district permit, order, or rule that has
			not been settled by agreement with the district or a final
			adjudication; or
			(3) has not paid a civil penalty or has otherwise
			failed to comply with an order resulting from a final adjudication
			of a violation of a district permit, order, or rule.
			SECTION 2. Section 36.1141, Water Code, as added by this
			Act, applies only to a permit issued on or after January 1, 2022.
			SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
HB1633	Gerdes	12-16-24	relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting
			or denying a permit or permit amendment.
SB 624	Kolkhorst	12-16-24	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; [or]
			(B) existing permit holders; or
			(C) wells that are registered with the district and exempt from the
			Section 36.1145. Before granting or denying a permit, or a permit amendment issue accordance with Section 36.1146, the district shall consider whether:  (1) the application conforms to the requirements prescribed by this chapter is accompanied by the prescribed fees;  (2) the proposed use of water unreasonably affects:  (A) existing groundwater and surface water resources; [or]  (B) existing permit holders; or

		T	
			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
			(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 enters
			into an interlocal contract under Chapter 791, Government Code, with the other district
IID 1 600	G 1	12 20 24	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:

	1		
			(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.
HB2034	Gerdes	1-23-25	Relating to the issuance of groundwater permits to certain aliens or foreign entities.
1115203	361465	1 23 23	remaining to the issuance of ground water permits to certain anens of foreign environs
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 <u>36.3011</u> [ <u>36.1082</u> ].
			Sec. 36.3011. COMMISSION INQUIRY AND ACTION REGARDING
			<b>DISTRICT DUTIES</b> . (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
11112070	301405	1 2 . 20	areas.
			SECTION 1. Section 36.1071(e), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:
	1		ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ

	(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.
	established under Section 30.108 over the preceding rive-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 [and to] review:
	(1) [the management plans,] the accomplishments of the management area;
	(2) [, and] proposals to adopt new or amend existing desired future conditions;
	<u>and</u>
	(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 <u>district is achieving</u> [management plan achieves]
	the desired future conditions established during the joint planning process through the
	implementation of the district's management plan and rules.
	implementation of the district's management plan and rules.
	(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;
<u> </u>	

			(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.
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.
SB1763	Hughes	Filed 2/28/25	Relating to the production and ownership of brine.  SECTION 2. Section 27.002, Water Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (26) to read as follows:  (26) "Brine" means a subterranean liquid or semiliquid of varying salinities and the interstitial particles and solutes suspended, dissolved, or otherwise contained in the liquid or semiliquid, including the brine minerals, as defined by Section 124.001, Natural Resources Code. The term does not include groundwater, as defined by Section 36.001(5), surface water, as described by Section 11.021(a), fluid oil and gas waste, as defined by Section 122.001, Natural Resources Code, or oil, gas, or a product of oil or gas, as defined by Section 85.001, Natural Resources Code.
SB2123	Zaffirini	Filed 3/10/25	Relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to provide financial
SB1994	Hall		assistance to certain counties for brackish water desalination.  Relating to the consideration of the provision of law enforcement, fire protection, and
			emergency services by a commissioners court or the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality when determining whether to grant or deny a petition for the
			creation of certain conservation and reclamation districts.
			SECTION 1. Section 16.053, Water Code, is amended by adding
			Subsection (j-1) to read as follows:
			(j-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (j), the board may provide

	1	1	
			financial assistance for brackish water desalination to a county
			with a population greater than 250,000 located:
			(1) on an international border; and
			(2) wholly or partly in a management area, as defined
			by Section 36.001, that does not have a groundwater conservation
			district that is located inside the county's boundaries.
SB2123	Zaffirini	Filed 3/10/25	Relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to provide financial
			assistance to certain counties for brackish water desalination.
SB2124	Zaffirini	Filed 3/10/25	Relating to publication of the Texas Groundwater Protection Committee's annual
			report.
SB2159	Flores	Filed 3/10/25	Relating to aquifer storage and recovery projects that transect a portion of the Edwards
			Aquifer.
			•
			BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
			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 authorize by
			rule or permit an injection well that transects or terminates in the
			Edwards Aquifer. The commission by rule or permit 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 by Section 27.151, that
			morados an risk injection wen, as defined by Section 27.131, that

			transects the Edwards Aquifer in Medina County for the injection of
			water into a geologic formation that underlies the Edwards Aquifer.
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.
			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 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 1154	Hughes	Filed 2/6/25	Relating to a prohibition on weather and climate modification activities by a governmental entity.
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
			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 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.  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.

			Sec. 15.426. MATCHING FUNDS REQUIRED. The board by rule may require a district 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 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 Groundwater Conservation District; authorizing an increase in the rate of the fee.  SECTION 1. Section 8871.154, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended to read as follows:  Sec. 8871.154. PRODUCTION FEE. The district may impose reasonable production fees on each well that is not exempt from permitting under Section 8871.103 based on the amount of water actually withdrawn from the well. The district may not impose a production fee 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

SB 616	Schwertner	12-13-24	Section 26.046(a). Except as otherwise provided by this subsection, the commission may not authorize by rule or permit an injection well that transects or terminates in the Edwards Aquifer. The commission by rule or permit 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.
SB 1583 HB 3609	Blanco Barry	Filed 2-24-25 Filed 3-3-2025	Relating to management plans adopted by groundwater conservation districts.  SECTION 1. Section 36.1071, Water Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), and (b-3) to read as follows:  (b) The management plan, or any amendments to the plan, shall:  (1) be developed u
			sing the district's best available data and forwarded to the regional water planning group for use in their planning process; and  (2) include:  (A) the most recently approved desired future conditions adopted under Section 36.108; and  (B) the amount of modeled available groundwater corresponding to the most recently approved desired future conditions.  (b-1) A district shall amend a management plan before the second anniversary of the adoption of desired future conditions included under Subsection (b).  (b-2) If a petition challenging the reasonableness of a desired future condition is filed under Section 36.1083(b), the executive administrator shall consider the management plan administratively complete if the district includes:

	1		
			(1) the most recently approved desired future conditions adopted under Section
			<u>36.108;</u>
			(2) the amount of modeled available groundwater corresponding to those
			desired future conditions;
			(3) a statement of the status of the petition challenging the reasonableness of a
			desired future condition; and
			(4) the information required by Subsections (a) and (e).
			(b-3) Subsection (b-2) applies until either:
			(1) the district issues a final order under Section 36.1083(n); or
			(2) if a desired future condition is found to be unreasonable in the final order, a
			new desired future condition is adopted pursuant to Section 36.108 or 36.1083(p).
			SECTION 2. Section 36.1072(b), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:
			(b) Within 60 days of receipt of a district's management plan adopted under Section
			36.1071, readopted under Subsection (e) or (g) of this section, or amended under Section
			36.1073, the executive administrator shall approve the district's plan if the
			plan is administratively complete. A management plan is administratively complete when it
			contains the information required to be submitted under <u>Sections</u> [Section] 36.1071(a) and (e)
			or meets the requirements of Section 36.1071(b-2), if applicable. The executive administrator
			may determine whether conditions justify waiver of the requirements under Section
			36.1071(e)(4).
Zaffirini	SB 1663	Filed 2/26/25	relating to notification procedures concerning groundwater contamination.
			BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
			SECTION 1. Section 26.408(b), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:
			(b) As soon as practicable but not [Not] later than the 30th day after the date the
			commission receives notice under Subsection (a) or obtains independent knowledge of
			groundwater contamination, the commission shall make every effort to give notice of the
			contamination by first class mail, e-mail, notice placed on the door of a residence, or another
			effective delivery method to:
			(1) each owner of a private drinking water well that may be affected by the
			contamination;
			(2) [and to] each applicable groundwater conservation district; and
			(3) the residents of each residential address within one mile of the site of the
	1		to me remains of each residential address within one time of the site of the

			contamination.
Raymond	B3989	Filed 03/06/2025	Relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to provide financial assistance to certain counties for brackish water desalination.  SECTION 1. Section 16.053, Water Code, is amended by adding Subsection (j-1) to read as follows:  (j-1) Notwithstanding Subsection (j), the board may provide financial assistance for brackish water desalination to a county with a population greater than 250,000 located:  (1) on an international border; and (2) wholly or partly in a management area, as defined  by Section 36.001, that does not have a groundwater conservation district that is located inside the county's boundaries.  SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.
HB3901	Darby	Filed 03/06/2025	Relating to an exemption of the transfer of certain rights in water from certain disclosure requirements applicable to the transfer of certain interests in real property.  SECTION 1. Section 33.135(a), Natural Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:  (a) A person who sells, transfers, or conveys an interest other than a groundwater or surface water right or a mineral, leasehold, or security interest in real property adjoining and abutting the tidally influenced waters of the state must include the following notice as a part of a written executory contract for the sale, transfer, or conveyance:  The purchaser is hereby notified that the purchaser should:  (9) of only a groundwater right, surface water right, mineral interest, leasehold interest, or security interest; or

HB3935 HJR 168	Hopper	Filed 03/06/2025	SECTION 4. Section 5.014(c), Property Code, is amended to read as follows:  (c) This section does not apply to a transfer:  (9) of only a groundwater right, surface water right, mineral interest, leasehold interest, or security interest.  SECTION 5. Section 13.257(c), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:  (c) This section does not apply to:  (11) a transfer of a groundwater right, surface water right, mineral interest, leasehold interest, or security interest.  SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Tax Code, is amended by adding Section 11.38 to read as follows:  Sec. 11.38. CERTAIN LAND IN PRIORITY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT AREA. (a) In this section, "priority groundwater management area" has the meaning assigned by Section 35.002, Water Code.  (b) A person is entitled to an exemption from taxation of 35 percent of the appraised value of a tract of land the person owns that is:  (1) located in a priority groundwater management area; (2) at least one-half acre in area, not including any portion of the tract underlying a structure; (3) not irrigated; and (4) not subject to appraisal under Subchapter C, D, E, or H, Chapter 23.
HB3935	Hopper	Filed 03/06/2025	Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of a portion of the appraised value of certain land that is located in a priority groundwater management area and is not
			irrigated.  BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:  SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 11, Tax Code, is amended by
			adding Section 11.38 to read as follows:  Sec. 11.38. CERTAIN LAND IN PRIORITY GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

			AREA. (a) In this section, "priority groundwater management area"  has the meaning assigned by Section 35.002, Water Code.  (b) A person is entitled to an exemption from taxation of 35 percent of the appraised value of a tract of land the person owns that is:  (1) located in a priority groundwater management area; (2) at least one-half acre in area, not including any portion of the tract underlying a structure; (3) not irrigated; and (4) not subject to appraisal under Subchapter C, D, E, or H, Chapter 23.  SECTION 5. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026, but only if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the appraised value of certain land that is located in a priority groundwater management area and is not
			irrigated is approved by the voters. If that amendment is not
HB4111	Guillen	Filed 03/07/2025	approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.  Relating to representatives on groundwater management areas.  Sec. 36.108. JOINT PLANNING IN MANAGEMENT AREA. (a) In this section:  (1) "Development board" means the Texas Water Development Board.  (2) "District representative" means the presiding officer or the presiding officer's designee for any district located wholly or partly in the management area or, where a county does not have a district, any person appointed by the county commissioners.
HB4135 SB1669	Zwiener Zaffirini	Filed 03/10/2025 Filed 2-27-25	SECTION 1. Section 573.001, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:  Sec. 573.001. COUNTY OR DISTRICT SUBJECT TO CHAPTER. This

			chapter applies only to:  (1) a county with a population of 2.8 million or more; (2) a district or authority created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, that: (A) has boundaries coterminous with a county described by Subdivision (1); and (B) is authorized to provide stormwater drainage and flood control facilities; (3) a county with a population of more than 1.3 million for which the primary source of drinking water is an underground aquifer; or (4) a county [with a population of 800,000 or more] that:
			(A) contains a portion of the Edwards Aquifer; or
			(B) is located wholly or partly within the boundaries of the Hill Country Priority Groundwater Management
HB4772	Olcott	Filed 3-13-25	Relating to exemptions from the requirement to obtain a permit from a groundwater conservation district for certain groundwater wells.
			SECTION 1. Section 36.117(b), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:  (b) Except as provided by this section, a district shall
			provide an exemption from the district requirement to obtain a permit for:
			(5) drilling or operating a well that is located or to  be located on a tract of land of 100 acres or less in size and  drilled, completed, or equipped so that it is incapable of producing more than 10,000 gallons of groundwater a day.

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.
НВ 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

HB 2347	Zweiner	2-3-25	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.  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.
SB1194 HB 2626	Flores Buckley	2-10-25	Relating to creating the Central Texas Water Alliance; providing authority to issue bonds; granting the power of eminent domain; providing authority to impose fees.
HB 2812	Isaac	2-13-25	relating to the exemption of public water supply wells from regulation, permitting, or metering by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.
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.
SB 1226	Hinojosa	2-11-25	relating to the creation of certain regional conservation and reclamation districts.  Creation of Ch. 59 District Hidalgo County area with Ch. 36 powers
HB 873	Wilson	Filed 11/12/24	Relating to air quality permits for aggregate production operations and concrete batch
SB 279	Johnson	Filed 1/7/25	plants.
	(similar)		Requires notice to GCDs for air quality permits for aggregate production operations and concrete batch plants
HB 3115	Troxclair	Filed	relating to the authority of the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation
			SECTION 1. Section 8838.106(b), Special District Local Laws
			Code, is amended to read as follows:
			(b) The district may not:
			(1) require the owner of a well used solely for
			domestic or livestock purposes that is exempt from permitting under
			Section 36.117(b)(1), Water Code, to install a meter or measuring device on the well;
Hb 4530	Romero	Filed 03/12/2025	Relating to the dedication and management of water rights placed in the Texas Water Trust.
SB1623	Johnson	Filed 2-25-25	Relating to the dedication of certain water rights to the Texas Water Trust.
SB1629	Perry	Filed 2-25-25	Relating to the administration by the Texas Water Development Board of the Texas Water Bank and certain funds and accounts.
HB 4572	Morales	Filed 3-12-25	
	Shaw		Relating to the regulation by the Railroad Commission of Texas of
			certain pits used for the storage and disposal of oil and gas waste.
			SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 91, Natural Resources
			Code, is amended by adding Section 91.119 to read as follows:
			Sec. 91.119. REGULATIONS REGARDING RESERVE AND MUD
			CIRCULATION PITS. (a) In this section:
			(1) "Mud circulation pit" means a pit used in
			conjunction with a drilling rig for the storage of drilling fluid

being used in drilling operations.
(2) "Reserve pit" means a pit used in conjunction with
a drilling rig for collecting:
(A) spent drilling fluids;
(B) cuttings, sand, and silt; or
(C) wash water used for cleaning drill pipe and
other equipment at the well site.
(b) The commission shall adopt rules regarding the use of
reserve pits and mud circulation pits. The rules must establish:
(1) minimum siting standards for reserve pits and mud
circulation pits;
(2) uniform technical, construction, sampling, and
closure standards for reserve pits and mud circulation pits;
(3) minimum and maximum bonding and financial security
requirements for a person using a reserve pit for the permanent
burial of oil and gas waste;
(4) groundwater monitoring standards for reserve pits
and mud circulation pits; and
(5) standards for providing notice to and receiving
permission from a landowner for the permanent burial of the oil and
gas waste, including providing notice to the landowner of the type
and volume of oil and gas waste to be buried in the reserve pit or
mud circulation pit.
(c) The standards established under Subsections (b)(1)-(4)
must be consistent with analogous standards established by the
commission for produced water recycling pits.
(d) Not later than 30 days after the closure of a reserve pit
or mud circulation pit used for the permanent burial of oil and gas
waste, the operator must send a written notice of the burial of the
oil and gas waste to the county clerk of the county in which the pit
is located. The written notice must include a legal description of
the location of the pit and the type and volume of oil and gas waste
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

		in the pit. After receiving notice of the oil and gas waste burial,
		the county clerk shall record the notice at no charge in the
		official public records of the county.
Kitzman	Filed 3-12-25	Relating to the regulation of artesian water wells by the Texas Commission on
		Environmental Quality.
		SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 11, Water Code, is amended
		by adding Section 11.2011 to read as follows:
		Sec. 11.2011. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter, other than
		Sections 11.202(c) and 11.206, applies only to an artesian well
		drilled outside the boundaries of a groundwater conservation
		district, subsidence district, or other conservation and
		reclamation district with the authority to regulate the drilling,
		spacing, or production of water wells.
Troxclair	Filed 3-12-25	
		Relating to the authority of certain counties to regulate
		subdivision platting in regard to the use of groundwater.
		SECTION 1. Chapter 232, Local Government Code, is amended
		by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:
		SUBCHAPTER G. LOT SIZE REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN COUNTIE
		Sec. 232.201. APPLICABILITY OF SUBCHAPTER. (a) This
		subchapter applies only to a tract of land that is:
		(1) greater than 50 acres;
		(2) proposed to be subdivided and developed for residential or commercial purposes; and
		(3) wholly located in a county with a population of
		more than 44,000 and less than 44,500.
		(b) This subchapter does not apply to a tract of land
		located in a water control and improvement district that was in
		existence on September 1, 2025.
		Sec. 232.202. MINIMUM LOT SIZE REQUIREMENT.
		Notwithstanding any other law and except as provided by Section
		232.204, the owner of a tract of land may not subdivide the land
	Kitzman	

			into lots that have an average lot size of less than three acres if
			the source of the water supply intended for the subdivision is
			groundwater, including groundwater sourced from a water control and
			improvement district or a municipal utility district.
			Sec. 232.203. WATER AVAILABILITY REPORT. A person that
			submits a plat application for approval for a tract of land must
			include a water availability report with the application as
			provided by Section 232.0032.
			Sec. 232.204. VARIANCE FROM MINIMUM LOT SIZE REQUIREMENT.
			On the request of an owner of a tract of land, the commissioners
			court of a county may grant a variance from compliance with Section
			232.202 if the owner demonstrates that the development of the tract
			of land will include a rainwater collection system.
			Sec. 232.205. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires August
			31, 2035.
SB 1663	Zaffirini	Filed	Relating to notification procedures concerning groundwater
		2/26/2025	contamination.
			BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
			SECTION 1. Section 26.408(b), Water Code, is amended to
			read as follows:
			(b) As soon as practicable but not [Not] later than the 30th
			day after the date the commission receives notice under Subsection
			(a) or obtains independent knowledge of groundwater contamination,
			the commission shall make every effort to give notice of the
			contamination by first class mail, e-mail, notice placed on the
			door of a residence, or another effective delivery method to:
			(1) each owner of a private drinking water well that
			may be affected by the contamination;
			(2) [and to] each applicable groundwater conservation
			district; and
			(3) the residents of each residential address within
			one mile of the site of the contamination.

SB2266	Cook	Filed 3-11-25	Relating to a seller's disclosure regarding real property located within a certain distance of a state or federal superfund site.
SB2389	Eckhardt	Filed 3-12-25	Relating to entities authorized to provide water or sewer service.