

**89th Texas Legislature
Legislation filed related to GCDs**

BILL	AUTHOR	COMMENTS	5-3-25
SB7	Perry Sen. Engrossed 4/2; HNRC hearing 4/24; Left pending	Relating to the oversight and financing of certain water infrastructure matters under the jurisdiction of the Texas Water Development Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creates state-funded water pipelines - Infrastructure developed to transport water may not be used to transport groundwater produced from a well within this state that, at the time of production, had a total dissolved solids concentration of less than 3,000 milligrams per liter. 	
SB2658	Perry Sen Hearing 4/14 Referred to HNRC 4/30	relating to the production and study of brackish groundwater. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Com. Substitute amends TWDB statutes re designated brackish groundwater zones to delete criteria that it is not near O&G wastewater injection wells and for TWDB to develop available amounts of brackish groundwater available in the zones - Amends 36.117 to exempt brackish wells above 3000 mg/l TDS from permitting, production and export fees, but requires water quality verification and monitoring 	
HB5188	Lopez, Janie HNRC hearing 4/23 Left Pending		
HB4896	Garcia, Josey HNRC hearing 4/30 Left pending		
HB1050	Dorazio No hearing set	Relating to the award of attorney's fees in certain suits involving a groundwater conservation district. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loser pay provision amended to 36.066(g) 	
HB2805	DeAyala Left pending in HNR 4/9	relating to civil actions related to groundwater conservation districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amends 36.066 to only allow GCDs to get attorney fees if court finds suit is suit brought against GCD in bad faith - Incorporates taking statute into 36 for GCD to have to pay attorney fees 	
HB4111 SB2498	Guillen - No hearing set Zaffirini - No hearing set	Relating to representatives on groundwater management areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bills give counties that do not have a GCD a voting member on GMAs 	
HB 1522	Gerdes - Passed House 4/9 - Referred to Senate B&C 4/14	Relating to notice of a meeting held under the open meetings law. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Changes TOMA 72 hrs notice to 3 business days 	
HB4772	Olcott - No hearing set	Relating to exemptions from the requirement to obtain a permit from a groundwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amends 36.117 D&L exemption from 10 acres to 100 acres - Exempt all wells on 100 acres or less that are capable of producing 10,000 gallons per day or less 	

HB5213	Zwiener - No hearing set	relating to groundwater requirements for municipal and county approval of subdivision plats and the powers and duties of groundwater conservation districts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Amends groundwater certification in city/county platting process re groundwater availability - Amends Ch. 36 to require “modeled sustainable groundwater” and sharing of information for groundwater /surface water interaction
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HB2078	Gerdes - HNRC hearing 4/30; reported favorably 5/2	Relating to the joint planning of desired future conditions in groundwater management areas. - Amends 36.1071, 108 to require more DFC tracking and achievement metrics in District Management Plan and to GMA
SB 1583 HB 3609	Blanco - Sen hearing 4/14; Engrossed 4/23; HRNC hearing 4/29; reported favorably Barry - voted out HNR 4/9; Placed on State General Calendar 5/5	Relating to management plans adopted by groundwater conservation districts. - Amends 36.1071, re GCD management plans criteria cleanup - For example, must add DFCs and MAGs to GCD management plan with 2 years of DFC adoption
SB2661 HB5560	Perry - hearing 4/14; left pending Harris - hearing 4/16; sent to Calendars 4/29	relating to penalties in certain suits involving a groundwater conservation district; increasing a penalty. - Increases GCD enforcement penalty cap to \$25,000/day from 10,000
HB1633 SB 624	Gerdes - voted out of HNR 4/2; SWARA hearing 5/5 Kolkhorst - no hearing set	relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit or permit amendment. - amends 36.113(d) to add to GCD consideration when evaluating a permit application: <u>“wells that are registered with the district and exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit under this chapter or district rules;”</u>
HB1689	Gerdes - voted out of HNR 4/2; SWARA hearing 5/5	relating to the use of certain groundwater export fees collected by a groundwater conservation district. - Amends 36.207 to allow export fees to mitigate wells affected outside of the GCD
HB1690	Gerdes - voted out of HNR 4/2; referred to SWARA 4/28	relating to an application for a permit for the transfer of groundwater out of a groundwater conservation district. - Amends 36.122 to require more notice requirements for transport permits
HB2034	Gerdes - hearing 4/9; left pending	Relating to the issuance of groundwater permits to certain aliens or foreign entities. - Prohibits GCD from issuing permits re national intelligence risk countries it creates a risk to public health, safety, and welfare

HB2077	Gerdes - No hearing set	Relating to persons eligible to appeal the desired future conditions adopted by a groundwater conservation district. - Amends 36.1083(a)(1), re definition of “affected person” who can petition to appeal DFCs
HB2080	Gerdes - HNRC hearing 4/30; reported favorably 5/2	Relating to the review of the duties of a groundwater conservation district by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. - Amends 36.3011 to add in needed details of how TCEQ panel operates, is reimbursed, etc.
SB2159 HB4931	Flores SWARA hearing 4/28; left pending Virdell - HNR hearing 4/16; sent to L&C Calendar	relating to aquifer storage and recovery projects that transect a - Allows TCEQ to grant by rule or permit an aquifer storage and recovery project that includes an ASR injection well, as defined by Section 27.151, that transects the Edwards Aquifer in Medina County for the injection of water into a geologic formation that underlies the Edwards Aquifer.

SB976	Eckhardt - no hearing set	Relating to the establishment of an advisory board to study surface water and groundwater interaction.
SB863	Perry - voted out of hearing 4/7; Referred to HNRC 4/22	Relating to the use of water withdrawn from the Edwards Aquifer. - Allows EA 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.
HB1400 SB718	Harris - passed House 4/14; Referred to SWARA 4/16 Kolkhorst - no hearing set	Relating to creation of the groundwater science, research, and innovation fund to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board.
HB1618 SB 616	Harris Davila - voted out HNR 4/9; laid on table 5/2 subject to call Schwertner - passed Sen 3/12; passed House	relating to aquifer storage and recovery projects that transect a portion of the Edwards Aquifer. - Allows TCEQ to grant by rule or permit <u>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.</u>
HB4135 SB1669	Zwiener - hearing 4/9; left pending Zaffirini	Relating to the regulation of stormwater management by certain counties. - Allows counties located wholly or partly with the Hill County PGMA To regulate stormwater runoff

	- no hearing set	
HB638	Tepper - left pending in Com 3/12; reported favorably; Sent to Calendars 5/1	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.
HB2347	Zweiner - left pending in HNR 4/9; Placed of State General Calendar 5/2	relating to the adoption of a water conservation program by certain counties. Allows commissioners court of a county to adopt a water conservation program if in a PGMA - Does not define water conservation program
HB2812	Isaac - no hearing set	relating to the exemption of public water supply wells from regulation, permitting, or metering by the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.
HB3115	Troxclair - Hearing set for 5/7	relating to the authority of the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation --amends enabling act for D&L exemption to be same as in 36.117(b)(1)
HB4637	Troxclair - no hearing set	relating to the authority of certain counties to regulate subdivision platting in regard to the use of groundwater in Kendall County - Allows Kendall County to have 3 acre minimum lot size if using groundwater