

Item 5 | Groundwater Legislation Filed | 87th Legislative Session

The 87th Legislative Session will officially begin January 12, 2021. There are several bills filed dealing with groundwater. In past legislative sessions, the Board has chosen to create a “position” on any groundwater legislation filed that directly affects the rules or functions of Brazos Valley GCD. The common positions have been “For”, “Opposed”, and “Neutral”. Developing a “position” gives the General Manager clear direction when speaking with representatives and senators.

Below are the groundwater bills filed for board position consideration:

HB 668 by Harris*	Referred to HNRC 3-1-21	No position
SB 152 by Perry*	Place on Intent Calendar 4-6-21	No position
HB 966 by Burns	Referred to HNRC 3-1-21	No position
HB 2652 by Larson**	Heard by HNRC 4-6-21	No position
SB 1039 by Eckhardt**	Referred to SWRAC 3-18-21	No position
HB 2851 by Lucio III	Referred to SWRAC 3-18-21	No position
SB 946 by Eckhardt***	Referred to SWRAC 3-11-21	No position
HB 3619 by Bower***	Heard by HNRC 4-6-21	No position
SB 1314 by Lucio	Referred to SWRAC 3-18-21	No position
HB 3972 by King	Referred to HNRC 3-29-21	No position
HB 3801 by Metcalf^	Heard by HNRC 3-30-21 (CSHB 3801 voted out favorably)	No position
SB 2157 by Creighton^	Has not been referred	No position

Bills filed for Board consideration

SB 152*, HB 668*, HB 966

There are four topics addressed in the bills:

- Attorney’s fee
- Petition for rulemaking
- Administrative completeness
- Notice of permit application or amendment

HB 2652 by Larson**

- Filed 3-2-21 (Identical to SB 1039 by Eckhardt)
- Relating to establishing an advisory board to study surface water and groundwater interaction

SB 1039 by Eckhardt**

- Filed 3-4-21 (Identical to HB 2652 by Larson)
- Relating to establishing an advisory board to study surface water and groundwater interaction

HB 2851 by Lucio III

- Filed 3-4-21
- Relating to the consideration of modeled sustainable groundwater pumping in the adoption of desired future conditions in groundwater conservation districts

SB 946 by Eckhardt***

- Filed 3-2-21 (Identical to HB 3619 by Bower)
- Relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit

HB 3619 by Bower***

- Filed 3-10-21 (Identical to SB 946 by Eckhardt)
- Relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit

SB 1314 by Lucio

- Filed 3-10-21
- Relating to a person obtaining a surety bond before filing a suit against a groundwater conservation district.

HB 3972 by King

- Filed 3-11-21
- Relating to a person obtaining a surety bond before filing a suit against a groundwater conservation district.

HB 3801 by Metcalf^

- Filed 3-11-21 (Identical to SB 2157 by Creighton)
- Relating to desired future conditions for groundwater that are declared unreasonable.

SB 2157 by Creighton^

- Filed 3-23-21 (Identical to HB 3801 by Metcalf)
- Relating to desired future conditions for groundwater that are declared unreasonable.