

Item 5 – Legislative Update – April 2019

Filing date for all bills during the 86th Legislative Session ended Friday, March 8th. There a number of bills that have been filed which directly affect the District. Each of the listed bills have been considered and position adopted. Listed is the current status of the bill and work done to implement board directions. They include:

- HB 722** by Larson – Relating to the production of brackish groundwater – **NEUTRAL**
CSHB 722 passed HRNC 4-2-19. Sent to Calendars 4-11-19.
- HB 726** by Larson – Omnibus bill relating to the regulation of groundwater – **SUPPORT**
CSHB 726 passed out HNRC 3-26-19; placed on General State Calendar 4-15-19. Drop a card in support.
- HB 1066** by Ashby - Relating to extensions of an expired permit for the transfer of groundwater from a groundwater conservation district – **SUPPORT**
Passed by House 4-3-19; Referred to SWRAC 4-8-19. Dropped a card in support.
- HB 2122** by Harris – Use of CCN by public water suppliers (must control water rights) **NEUTRAL** (Bill remains pending in committee)
- HB 2123** by Harris – Petitioning the District for rule making **NEUTRAL (engage for improvement)**. Committee substitute considered allowing rules petition to be heard in a hearing or regular board meeting and removed appealable language. Committee substitute passed HRNC 4-2-19 and has been submitted to and received by the Committee Coordinator.
- HB 2125** by Burns – Awarding of Attorney Fees in suits (Award capped at \$100,000) **NEUTRAL (engage to improve language)**. CSHB 2125 considered 4-2-19 removing cap; bill left pending)
- HB 2249** by Lucio – Use of CCN by public water suppliers (no control of water rights) **OPPOSED**. Bill heard in HNRC 3-26-19. GM testified opposing the bill. Left pending in committee)
- HB 3998** by Wilson – Transferring regulation of groundwater to the TWDB - **OPPOSED**
(bill filed but not heard in committee)
- HB 4570** by Larson – Establishing a groundwater/surface water advisory committee – **SUPPORT**. Bill heard in committee 4-9-19; left pending in committee). Dropped a card in support.
- SB 800** by Perry – Identical to HB 1066 – **SUPPORT** (Referred to SWRAC 3-1-19; not heard in committee)
- SB 851** by Perry – Awarding of Attorney Fees in suits (Award capped at \$250,000) – **NEUTRAL (engage to improve language)**. Bill reported from committee w/o amendments; placed on Intent Calendar 4-9-19)
- SB 1010** by Perry – Adopting Rules Similar to Rules of Other Districts in the GMA –

SUPPORT. Passed by Senate 4-4-19; Referred to HNRC 4-8-19). We have working closely with the SWRA committee coordinator to improve language in the bill. We will be involved in a stakeholder meeting with Senator Perry to continued discussions of improving the language 4-18-19. Dropped card in support (SWRAC)

SB 2026 by Perry – Identical to HB 2122 – **NEUTRAL** (Hearing on bill 4-15-19)

SB 2027 by Perry – Standard of judicial review for groundwater de novo - **OPPOSED** (Hearing before SWRA committee 4-15-19). Dropped card in opposition.

Each of these bills were discussed at length during the March 14th board meeting and positions on the bills were determined.