

**Water Resources Council**  
**84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Bills of Interest**

Water Related Legislation				
Bill	Author	Topic	Status	NCTCOG Staff Notes
<a href="#">H.B. 1919</a>	Phillips (Sherman)	Relating to the applicability of certain provision concerning invasive species.	sent to the Governor 6/01/2015	Parks and Wildlife Code Section 66.007 amended to read how a water transfer is not a violation of the section. A list of transfers that do not require a permit to complete water transfer.
<a href="#">H.B. 2767</a>	Keffer (Granbury) King (Uvalde)	Relating to the powers, duties, and administration of groundwater conservation districts; amending provisions that authorize fees.	Sent to the Governor 5/22/2015	Relating to the powers, duties, and administration of groundwater conservation districts; amending provisions that authorize fees.
<a href="#">S.B. 2057</a>	Taylor (Plano)	Relating to the creation of the Double R Municipal Utility Districts Nos. 1 and 2 of Hunt County.	Sent to the Governor 5/30/2015	Granting a limited power of eminent domain; providing authority to issue bonds; providing authority to impose assessments, fees, and taxes.
<a href="#">H.B. 200</a>	Keffer (Granbury)	Relating to the regulation of groundwater	Signed by House and Senate. Sent to the Governor 06/01/2015	In order to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging, and prevention of waste of groundwater, and of groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions, and to control subsidence caused by withdrawal of water from those groundwater reservoirs or their subdivisions.
<a href="#">H.B. 1662</a>	Sheets (Dallas)	Relating to the exemption of certain property from municipal drainage service charges	Signed by the Governor 05/28/2015	A municipality may exempt property used for cemetery purposes from drainage charges under Section 552.0417 if the cemetery is closed to new interments and does not accept new burials.
<a href="#">H.B. 1919</a>	Phillips (Sherman)	Relating to the applicability of certain provisions concerning invasive species.	Sent to the Governor 06/01/2015	Restriction of water transfers in water bodies in which there is a known exotic harmful or potential harmful aquatic plant population.
<a href="#">S.B. 1903</a>	Perry (Lubbock)	Storage and recovery of water in aquifers authorizing fees and surcharges.	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/25/2015. Not again placed on intent calendar. Out of committee.	Use of the Water Code to provide better standards and regulations for injection and recovery in aquifers.

**Water Resources Council**  
**84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Bills of Interest**

<a href="#">S.B. 1907</a>	Perry (Lubbock)	Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the development of a market and conveyance network for water in this state.	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 05/05/2015. Not again placed on intent calendar. Out of committee.	Improving the efficient use of water in the state by improving the laws in regards to water transfers and conveyance infrastructure. The TWDB will conduct a study to establish a water grid (integrated network of pipelines, pumping stations, reservoirs, and other works for the conveyance of water).
<a href="#">H.B. 3942</a>	Paddie (Houston)	Relating to the authority to determine the supply of groundwater in certain regional water plans.	Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/23/2015. Left pending in committee.	Regional water planning groups would submit a plan that identifies the needs of the region including, water sources, drought response, water infrastructure facilities, and water management strategies.
<a href="#">S.B. 1724</a>	Creighton (Beaumont)	Relating to the storage and recovery of water in aquifers; authorizing fees and surcharges	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/23/2015.	Injection well projects related to recovery of water in aquifers will have public notice and permit authorization. The subsequent well and project manager on the well will have to maintain project reports and annual water testing reports
<a href="#">H.B. 3696</a>	Landgraf (Austin)	Establishment of the Texas Water Research Program	Referred to Higher Education Committee 3/19/2015	Texas Water Research Program is to establish and incentivize water conservation and reuse program research by institutions and public policy research on water policy regulatory framework.
<a href="#">S.B. 1526</a>	Garcia (Houston)	Amendment of the Water Code for certain water utilities' certificate of public convenience and necessity for major rules violations.	Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development 3/23/2015	Utility Commission staff shall file a petition to revoke an investor owned water utility's certificate of public convenience if the utility has committed repeated drinking water violations.

**Water Resources Council**  
**84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Bills of Interest**

<a href="#">S.B. 1411</a>	Estes (Wichita Falls)	Relating to a water right authorizing a transfer of water from one river basin in the state to another river basin in this state.	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/18/2015	Proposed transfer from the part of one river basin to another with certain exceptions.
<a href="#">H.B. 3363</a>	Keffer (Granbury)	Relating to authorizing local government programs to provide assessments for residential water and energy improvements in designated regions.	Referred to Natural Resources Committee. 05/18/2015 no action taken in committee	The board's authority under this chapter is limited to the financing of: the acquisition or construction of a building; the purchase or lease of equipment; stranded costs of a municipal power agency; or local government water and energy improvement contractual assessment programs for the benefit of residential real property.
<a href="#">H.B. 3298</a>	Larson (San Antonio)	Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Water Development Board regarding the development of a market and conveyance network for water in this state.	In Natural Resources Committee. 05/18/2015 no action taken in committee	Upon completion of this study, the TWDB will have conducted reviews and evaluate facilities for increasing efficiency, management, and construction of the water grid.
<a href="#">S.B. 1311</a>	Lucio (Brownsville)	Relating to the Office of Water and the Water Advisory Committee in the Department of Agriculture	Referred to Agriculture, Water & Rural Affairs 3/18/2015	The Commissioner shall establish an Office of Water within the department. Office of Water will support: goals and objectives and development of programs related to agricultural water use. Commissioner will appoint a Water Advisory Committee of 9 to advise the Commissioner on agricultural water use. Takes effect Sept. 1, 2015
<a href="#">H.B. 3172</a>	Schaefer (Tyler)	Relating to emergency orders concerning water rights issued by TCEQ	Referred to Natural Resources 3/23/2015	During a period of drought, the executive director may issue an order once it has been in a drought for at least 30 consecutive days before the date the order is issued. If the period of suspension or adjustment in the order is longer than six months, the order will be reviewed at least once every six months to determine whether the drought in the river basin is still severe.

**Water Resources Council**  
**84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Bills of Interest**

<a href="#">H.B. 2852</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Nevarez (Eagle Pass)</p>	<p>Relating to municipal rates for water and sewer service charged to public school districts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referred to Natural Resources. 05/12/2015 placed on general state calendar</p>	<p>A municipally owned utility that provides retail water or sewer utility service to a public school district shall charge the district for that service the lowest rates the utility charges commercial businesses or nonprofit organizations</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 2570</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Johnson (Dallas)</p>	<p>Relating to the incorporation of climate and precipitation forecasts in state, regional, and local water planning.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referred to Natural Resources 3/16/2015</p>	<p>Not later than January 5, 2017, and before the end of each successive 5 year period after that date, consideration of the potential effects of climate change and precipitation changes on the water supply in this state, based on forecasts developed under Section 16.057 must be included in the state water plan.</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 2132</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Craddick (Midland)</p>	<p>Exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit from a groundwater conservation district; authorizing a fee</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referred to Natural Resources 3/13/2015</p>	<p>Exemption includes drilling or operating a well for livestock or poultry if less than 10 acres and produce less than 25,000 gal/day, supply operations related to oil and gas production, mining activities.</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 1581</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Simpson (Longview)</p>	<p>Relating to the duty of a water supply system to provide certain information to consumers regarding fluoride in drinking water.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referred to Natural Resources. 6/02/2015 Committee report sent to calendars</p>	<p>Fluoridated water disclosure to be displayed conspicuous place on the system's website: amount of naturally occurring fluoride, amount of fluoride added, combined amount from natural and added fluoride. If no website, information required would be in a bill insert sent to customers.</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 928</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Guillen (Rio Grande City)</p>	<p>Relating to state and local planning for and responses to drought.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Natural Resources committee. 5/31/2015 S Motion withdrawn</p>	<p>Council will monitor trends in technologies and effectiveness for water conservation. In addition develop and implement a state water management resource library and public recognition program for water conservation.</p>

**Water Resources Council**  
**84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Bills of Interest**

<a href="#">S.B. 78</a>	Ellis (Houston)	Relating to the matters to be considered in developing the state water plan.	Referred to Agriculture, Water, & Rural Affairs. 5/01/2015 Considered in Calendars.	The state water plan must include: assessment of the best available science pertaining to future water use and availability, evaluation of the state's progress in meeting future water needs as well as analysis of the number of projects including those in the preceding state water plan.
<a href="#">H.B. 1526</a>	Farrar (Houston)	Relating to construction of detention ponds by TxDOT	Referred to Transportation Committee. 5/08/2015 Committee report sent to Calendars.	Transportation code is amended that now construction of detention ponds associated with highway projects the department shall consider 1) using a permeable surface for the detention ponds and 2) completing the detention ponds so that it can be used as green space for wildlife and general public. This act takes effect September 1, 2015.
<a href="#">H.C.R. 74</a>	Davis (Dallas)	Relating directing the TWDB and TCEQ to support creation of a model recycling project in an appropriate location.	Referred to Agriculture, Water, & Rural Affairs 5/21/2015.	RESOLVED, That the 84th Texas Legislature direct the board to include the creation of a direct potable-water recycling facility in Region C as a priority for support pursuant to Section 16.1311, Water Code.
<a href="#">H.B. 3019</a>	Kuempel (Seguin)	Relating to the competitive bid process for construction during contracting and delivery of construction projects.	Referred to Government Transparency & Operation. 4/22/2015 No action taken in committee.	Sec. 2269.060. Acceptability of Construction Materials. The governing body of a governmental entity that considers a construction contract using a method authorized by this chapter may not unreasonably restrict or eliminate the consideration of construction materials used in the contracting and delivery of a construction project.
<a href="#">H.B. 3953</a>	Geren (River Oaks)	Public Utility Commission of Texas in relation to the economic regulation of water and sewer service.	Referred to Natural Resources Committee 05/06/2015. Left pending in committee	Public Utilities Commission can compel a water or sewer service provider to provide services or emergency interconnection with a neighboring retail public utility if service is discontinued or impaired

**Water Resources Council**  
**84<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Bills of Interest**

<a href="#">H.B. 3821</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ashby (Lufkin)</p>	<p>Procedure for action by TCEQ on an application for a water right.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/23/2015</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amending the Water Code for processing and reviewing application for a water right.</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 3161</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cyrier (Austin)</p>	<p>Relating to prioritizing groundwater production</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/23/2015</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Review permits for exporting water to include consideration of current district conditions, conservation and drought contingency measures, and economic impact. Permit cannot be rejected based on exporting groundwater.</p>
<a href="#">H.B. 3788</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Reynolds (Austin)</p>	<p>Information required to be in a regional water plan and use of that information by the regional water planning group in developing the regional plan.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referred to Natural Resources Committee 3/23/2015</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Additional information to provide to the water board to for water management plans</p>
<a href="#">S.B. 1627</a>	<p style="text-align: center;">Lucio (Brownsville)</p>	<p>Related to state and local planning for and responses to drought.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Referred to Agriculture, Water &amp; Rural Affairs 3/23/2015</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Amending the Water Code to monitor trends in water conservation implementation, new technology, and effectiveness of statewide water conservation public awareness program.</p>