

**SUBJECT:** Regulating water well pump installers; well drillers fund

**COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — favorable, with amendment

**VOTE:** 6 ayes — Yost, Corte, King, Puente, Stiles, Walker  
0 nays  
3 absent — Counts, Combs, R. Lewis

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 3 — 30-0

**WITNESSES:** None

**DIGEST:** SB 675, as amended, would require the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to deposit all funds collected from licensing water well pump installers to the water well drillers fund, stipulating that no more than 20 percent of the fund could cover administrative costs.

The bill also would amend the Water Code to eliminate references to "licensing department" approval of rules and exams for water well drillers.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1995.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** SB 647 is needed to clarify current law by deleting obsolete language that requires the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to approve licensing and regulation of water well pump installers. The law should stipulate that TNRCC has final authority, as the references to licensing department approval are obsolete.

**OPPONENTS SAY:** No apparent opposition.

**NOTES:** The committee amendment would require TNRCC to deposit all collected funds into the water well drillers fund, stipulating that no more than 20 percent of the fund may be used to cover administrative costs.

The fiscal note estimates that the limitation on administrative expenses from the water well drillers fund would require a transfer of nearly \$51,000 a year from the general revenue fund to cover administrative costs. There would be a corresponding gain to the well drillers fund.

Also on today's calendar is SB 675 by Barrientos, which would make the same changes as SB 647, but regarding water well drillers.