

SUBJECT: Written notice of groundwater contamination to a groundwater district

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Ritter, T. King, Beck, Creighton, Hopson, Larson, Lucio, D. Miller, Price

0 nays

2 absent — Keffer, Martinez Fischer

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, March 24 — 31-0

WITNESSES: (*On House companion bill, HB 2384:*)
For — David Alford, Pineywoods Groundwater Conservation District

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Under current law, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) is required, in the event of a potential public health hazard due to groundwater contamination, to give written notice to the county judge and county health officer of each county in which the contamination has occurred, any person under TCEQ's jurisdiction who is suspected of contributing to the contamination, and any other state agency with jurisdiction over a person suspected of contributing to the contamination. TCEQ is required to give notice within 30 days of acquiring information about the contamination.

DIGEST: SB 430 would add to the list of those required to be notified by TCEQ in the event of groundwater contamination, requiring a groundwater conservation district to receive written notice if the contamination was in the jurisdiction of that district.

SB 430 would take effect September 1, 2011, and would apply only to groundwater contamination about which TCEQ acquired information on or after that date.

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SUPPORTERS
SAY:

SB 430 would require that TCEQ provide written notice to each groundwater district in the area affected by groundwater contamination. This would be beneficial because groundwater districts would be best able to help notify affected well owners in the area since they have a better understanding of well locations and current ownership of wells.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The House companion bill, HB 2364 by Christian, was reported favorably, without amendment, by the House Natural Resources Committee on March 31.