

- SUBJECT:** Powers and duties, laws, and elections of certain groundwater districts
- COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Keffer, Ashby, D. Bonnen, Frank, Kacal, T. King, Larson, Lucio, Nevárez, Workman
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Burns
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 16 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Legislative Council typically codifies the enabling acts of multiple groundwater conservation districts every session through a non-substantive codification bill. The Texas Legislative Council determined it would be necessary to make some statutory changes to remove conflicts in the enabling acts of certain groundwater conservation districts before they could be codified.
- DIGEST:** CSSB 1336 would amend the enabling statutes relating to the powers and duties and construction of laws of the following groundwater conservation districts:
- Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District;
 - Crockett County Groundwater Conservation District;
 - Mesa Underground Water Conservation District;
 - Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District;
 - Santa Rita Underground Water Conservation District;
 - Saratoga Underground Water Conservation District;
 - South Plains Underground Water Conservation District; and
 - Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District

The bill would remove some references to chapters 49, 50, 51, and 52 to instead reflect the codification of groundwater law in chapter 36. The bill also would provide that if there was a conflict between those chapters and chapter 36, chapter 36 would prevail.

In addition to the changes relating to the powers and duties and construction of laws, the bill would provide uniform election dates for the following groundwater conservation districts and would require the districts to adjust the terms of office accordingly:

- Mesa Underground Water Conservation District;
- Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District;
- South Plains Underground Water Conservation District; and
- Sutton County Underground Water Conservation District

The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.