

- SUBJECT:** Revising provisions governing Hemphill County special district
- COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Larson, Phelan, Ashby, Burns, Frank, Kacal, T. King, Lucio, Price, Workman
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Nevárez
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Robby Cook, Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District; Charlie Schnabel, Manville Water Supply Corporation)
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The enabling legislation for the Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District, HB 1493 by Chisum, enacted by the 74th Legislature in 1995, grants the district all the powers and duties provided to certain districts by chapters 50 and 52 of the Water Code. It directs the district to hold an election for directors of the board on the first Saturday in May every subsequent second year after the district was created.
- DIGEST:** HB 886 would grant the Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District all the powers and duties applicable to groundwater conservation districts under Water Code, ch. 36. References to chapters 50 and 52 would be removed in the district's enabling provisions.
- Under the bill, the Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District would hold an election for the board of directors on the uniform election date in May (first Saturday) of each even-numbered year.
- The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

SUPPORTERS  
SAY:

HB 886 would revise the Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District's enabling legislation to remove conflicts with chapter 36 of the Water Code. It would update outdated provisions and position the district's enabling legislation to be more easily codified at some point. Similar statutory changes were made in 2015 to eight groundwater conservation districts through the enactment of SB 1336 by Perry.

The bill also would clarify that the district board election would be held on the uniform election date in May.

The Hemphill County Underground Water Conservation District has made all relevant public notice statements to inform citizens of the proposed changes.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

A companion bill, SB 689 by Seliger, was reported favorably on March 14 by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs and recommended for the Local and Uncontested Calendar.