

SUBJECT: Studying groundwater conditions in certain counties

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 10 ayes — Larson, Metcalf, Dominguez, Farrar, Harris, T. King, Lang, Nevárez, Price, Ramos

0 nays

1 absent — Oliverson

WITNESSES: For — David Blackburn and Tim Brown, Bell County; Dirk Aaron and Scott Brooks, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Alfonso Lucio, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Brad Schlueter, City of Killeen; Gary Young, Clearwater Underground Water Conservation District; Charles Flatten, Hill Country Alliance; Mary Cullinane, League of Women Voters of Texas; Sarah Floerke Gouak, Lower Colorado River Authority; Chris Mullins, Save Our Springs Alliance; Amber Blount, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts; Vanessa Puig-Williams, Trinity Edwards Spring Protection Association; Perry Fowler, Texas Water Infrastructure Network; Terry Cook, Williamson County Commissioners Court)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* John Dupnik, Texas Water Development Board)

BACKGROUND: It has been noted that two decades have passed since the Texas Water Development Board last studied groundwater use in several Central Texas counties and that these counties have experienced significant population growth and urbanization. Some suggest a new study of groundwater usage in these areas is necessary to help the state better measure and manage available groundwater resources.

DIGEST: CSHB 3264 would require the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)

to study current and projected groundwater production and its effects on groundwater conditions for the Trinity and Edwards aquifers north of the Colorado River in Bell, Burnet, Milam, Travis, and Williamson counties.

The study would compile and evaluate data on groundwater levels, aquifer characteristics, and groundwater use and production in the area and fully assess the effects of current and projected production on groundwater conditions.

TWDB would be required to publish a public report with its findings by September 1, 2020. The bill's provisions would expire September 1, 2021.

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, 2019.