

**SUBJECT:** Posting certain environmental and water use permit applications online

**COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — T. King, Harris, Bowers, Larson, Paul, Price, Ramos, Walle, Wilson

0 nays

2 absent — Kacal, Lucio

**WITNESSES:** For — Andrew Brady, Harris County Pollution Control Services Department; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Adrian Shelley, Public Citizen; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Jamaal Smith, City of Houston, Office of the Mayor Sylvester Turner; Adam Haynes, Conference of Urban Counties; Jim Allison, County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas; Thamara Narvaez, Harris County Commissioners Court; Myron Hess, National Wildlife Federation; Julie Wheeler, Travis County Commissioners Court; Buddy Garcia; Vanessa MacDougal)

Against — None

On — Sam Gammage, Texas Chemical Council; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Erin Chancellor and Charly Fritz, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)

**BACKGROUND:** Interested parties have recommended extending practices established during the COVID-19 pandemic that provide for online posting of environmental and water use permit applications to allow for easier public access to this information.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 2990 would require an applicant for an environmental or water use permit or the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to post on a publicly accessible website the application and any revision or supplement to the application after the application was determined to be

complete. For a water use permit, the posting also would have to include certain other required materials. The posting would have to be maintained until TCEQ took final action on the application, and the website address would have to be included in any public notice provided by the applicant or TCEQ.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021, and apply only to an application received by TCEQ on or after that date.