

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
83R4389 JAM-F

H.B. 677
By: Geren et al. (Elife)
Administration
5/17/2013
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Current law exempts certain owners from costly dam safety regulatory requirements. To qualify for this exemption a dam must have a hazard classification of low or significant, impound less than 500 acre-feet of water, and be located outside of the corporate limits of a municipality in a county with a population of less than 215,000. These dams still must meet Texas Commission on Environmental Quality operation and maintenance requirements. H.B. 677 changes the county population threshold to 350,000.

H.B. 677 amends current law relating to the regulation and enforcement of dam safety by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 12.052(e-1), Water Code, as follows:

(e-1) Requires the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to exempt an owner of a dam located on private property from meeting requirements related to dam safety if the dam:

- (1) at maximum capacity impounds less than 500 acre-feet;
- (2) has a hazard classification of low or significant;
- (3) is located in a county with a population of less than 350,000, rather than with a population of less than 215,000; and
- (4) is not located inside the corporate limits of a municipality.

SECTION 2. Repealer: Section 12.052(e-3) (relating to providing that Subsections (e-1) and (e-2) expire August 31, 2015), Water Code.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2013.