

By: Simpson

H.B. No. 632

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the planning and funding of water projects to be constructed in a region other than the region proposing the project.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 16.053(e-1), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e-1) A regional water plan may not include a proposal for the construction of a water project in another regional water planning area unless at least two-thirds of the members of the regional water planning group for that area have consented to the inclusion of the proposal in the plan ~~[On request of the Texas Water Advisory Council, a regional planning group shall provide the council a copy of that planning group's regional water plan]~~.

SECTION 2. Section 16.053(h)(4), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(4) After the regional water plan is initially prepared, the regional water planning group shall submit a copy of the plan to the board. The board shall submit comments on the regional water plan as to whether the plan meets the requirements of Subsections (e) and (e-1) ~~[Subsection (e) of this section]~~.

SECTION 3. Section 16.053(j), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(j) The board may provide financial assistance to political

subdivisions under Subchapters E and F of this chapter, Subchapters C, D, E, F, J, O, Q, and R, Chapter 15, and Subchapters D, I, K, and L, Chapter 17, for water supply projects only if:

(1) the board determines that the needs to be addressed by the project will be addressed in a manner that is consistent with the state water plan;

(2) beginning January 5, 2002~~[, the board]~~:

(A) the board has approved a regional water plan as provided by Subsection (i), and any required updates of the plan, for the region of the state that includes the area benefiting from the proposed project; ~~and~~

(B) if the proposed project is to be constructed in a regional water planning area other than the area benefiting from the proposed project, at least two-thirds of the members of the regional water planning group for the area in which the proposed project is to be constructed have consented to the inclusion in that regional water plan of the proposal to construct the project as required by Subsection (e-1); and

(C) the board determines that the needs to be addressed by the project will be addressed in a manner that is consistent with that regional water plan; and

(3) the board finds that the water audit required under Section 16.0121 has been completed and filed.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.