

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners' Work Session

Date: August 17, 2015

From:  Mark Harmon, Director
Intergovernmental Relations Division

Subject: Legislative Update

Issue

Discussion of legislative issues potentially affecting the TCEQ; as well as other state actions and state's participation in legislative and regulatory activities.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Legislative Wrap-Up Report

84th Texas Legislature

July 2015

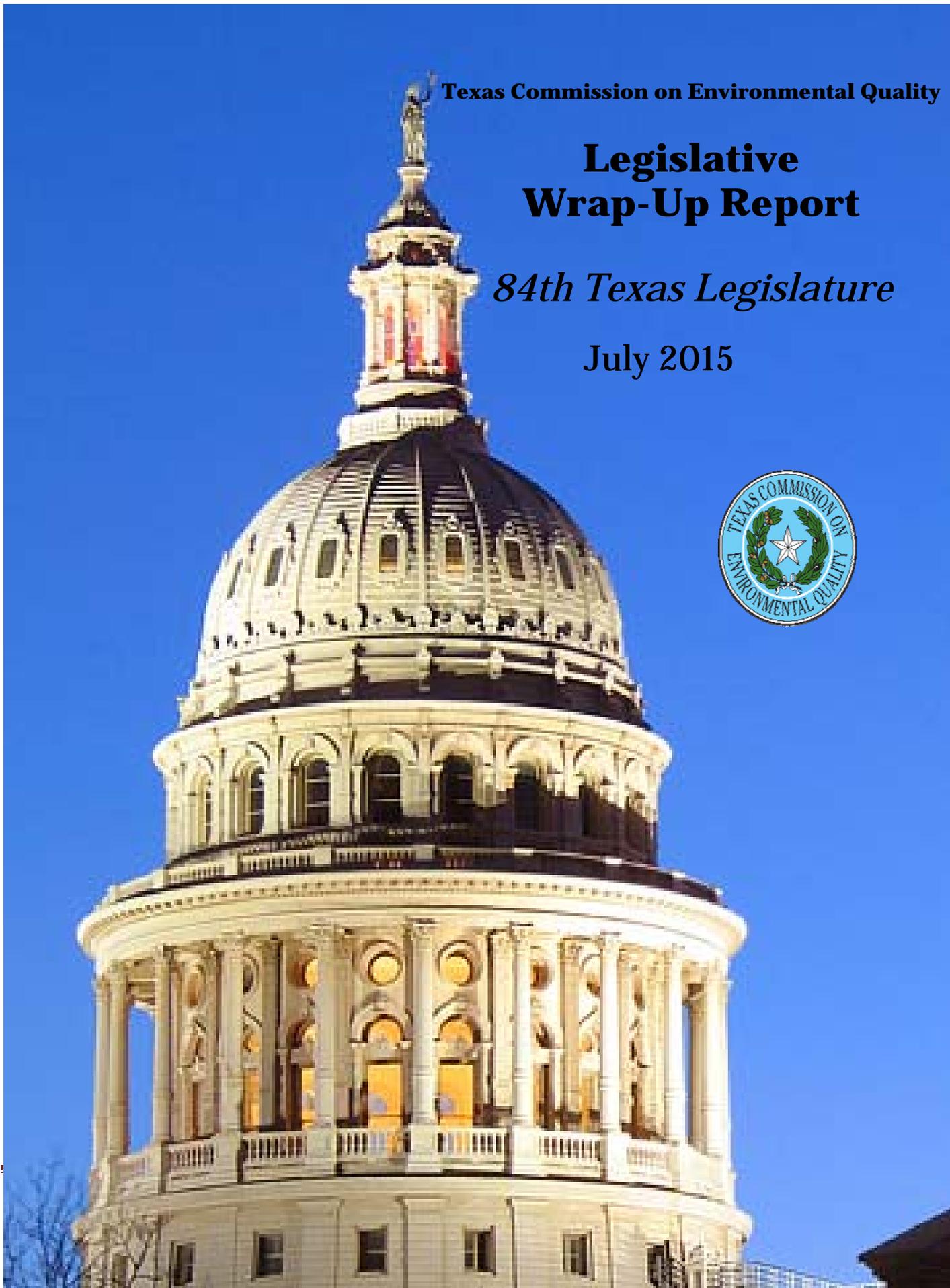


TABLE OF CONTENTS

General Appropriations Act.4

Agency Office.....6

 Commissioners.....6

 Executive Director.....7

 Administrative Services... ..8

 Air.....11

 Compliance & Enforcement12

 Legal Services13

 Waste.....15

 Water.....17

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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ)
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Budget Highlights

Overall Appropriations:

2016/17 Total Appropriations

- \$912.4 million including contingency funds. An increase of \$179.7 million from the agency's base request in the FY16/17 LAR.

Method of Finance

MOF	Totals	Percentage
General Revenue	\$23.0 million	2.5%
General Revenue Dedicated	\$798.3 million	87.5%
Federal Funds	\$75.8 million	8.3%
Other	\$15.3 million	1.7%

Full-time Equivalents

- 2,780.2 FTEs authorized, which is an increase of 33 FTEs in comparison to FY 16/17 LAR.

Exceptional Items:

Water Operational Needs

The agency received 5.0 FTEs and \$2.6 million for the biennium out of General Revenue to provide additional resources to support the water programs.

Targeted Classification Increases

\$2.0 million was appropriated to increase salaries in specific classifications that experience high turnover rates. Some examples are accountants, attorneys, chemists, engineers, hydrologists, systems analysts, etc.

Air Monitoring – Revised Federal Sulphur Dioxide Standard

The agency received \$3.7 million and 8.0 FTEs to deploy at least 31 new SO₂ monitors statewide by EPA's targeted deployment date of January 1, 2017 to meet the new 1-hour standard.

Brazos Watermaster

\$1.2 million and 7.0 FTEs were received to implement the new Watermaster program.

Rider/Program Changes:

Air Quality Planning Grants (Rider 7):

The Air Quality Planning grants were increased by \$1.0 million for the biennium and added Killeen-Temple to list of potential areas.

TERP (Rider 20):

The Texas Emission Reduction Plan program received an increase of \$81.0 million for the biennium.

LIRAP (Rider 24):

The Low Income Vehicle Repair Assistance, Retrofit, and Accelerated Vehicle Retirement Program received an increase of \$81.3 million for the biennium.

Expedited Processing of Permit Applications (Rider 30):

The Air Permits Division received up to \$475 thousand from fee revenues collected from expedited permit review surcharges.

Contingency Appropriations:

Hazardous Chemicals (Article IX Section 18.17):

Contingent on passage of HB 942, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) will transfer the storage of hazardous chemicals program, along with all appropriations and FTEs directly associated with the program, to the TCEQ. The agency is appropriated \$2.3 million for the biennium to implement the program. In addition to 11 FTEs transferred from DSHS, the program is authorized 2 new FTEs.

Closed Battery Recycling (Article IX Section 18.31):

Contingent on passage of HB 7, the agency will receive \$1.7 million to support environmental remediation at a closed battery recycling facility.

Administrative Provisions:

Salary Increase (Article IX Section 18.02):

Contingent on passage of HB 9, state employees will receive an increase of 2.5% in annual salary. This is to help cover an increase to the member contribution rate to the pension fund from 7.2% in FY 15 to 9.5% beginning in FY 16. The salary increase is estimated to be \$3.9 million. This amount is not included in the total appropriations shown above of \$912.4 million because the salary increase is appropriated to the Comptroller, who will appropriate it to individual agencies.

HB 1771 by Raney Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to the donation of sick leave by state employees.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

HB 1890 by Elkins Senate Sponsor: West
Relating to the development and implementation of a statewide strategy for
legacy system modernization.
Effective Date: 6/15/2015

HB 3337 by Clardy Senate Sponsor: Nelson
Relating to training and education for state agency administrators and employees.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

HB 3342 by Kuempel Senate Sponsor: Eltife
Relating to purchase of goods and services by the state.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

HB 3438 by Riddle Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini
Relating to the transfer of surplus or salvage state agency property.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

HB 3439 by Riddle Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini
Relating to the donation of property from a state agency to an assistance
organization or a local governmental entity.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

SB 20 by Nelson House Sponsor: Price
Relating to state agency contracting.
Effective Date 9/1/2015

SB 34 by Zaffirini House Sponsor: Gonzales
Relating to a report concerning information security for this state's information
resources.

Effective Date: 9/1/2015

SB 59

by Nelson

House Sponsor: Raymond

Relating to exempting the procurement of services for victims of family violence from competitive bidding requirements.

Effective Date: 6/19/2015

SB 805

by Campbell

House Sponsor: Raney

Relating to the employment of individuals qualified for a veteran's employment preference.

Effective Date: 9/1/2015

SB 1844

by Zaffirini

House Sponsor: Walle

Relating to the establishment and functions of the Interagency Data Coordination and Transparency Commission.

Effective Date: 9/1/2015

AGENCY OFFICE

Office of Air

SJR 5

by Nichols

House Sponsor: Pickett

Proposing a constitutional amendment dedicating certain revenue derived from the tax imposed on the sale of motor vehicles to the state highway fund.

Effective Date: 11/3/2015

SB 709 by Fraser House Sponsor: Morrison
Relating to environmental permitting procedures for applications filed with the
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Effective Date: 9/1/2015

SB 1877 by Zaffirini House Sponsor: Galindo III
Relating to the development and maintenance by each state agency of a data use
agreement for the state agency's employees.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

AGENCY OFFICE

Waste

HB 281 by Simmons Senate Sponsor: Nelson
Relating to a limitation on the expansion of certain landfills.
Effective Date: 6/18/15

HB 655 by Larson Senate Sponsor: Perry
Relating to the storage and recovery of water in aquifers.
Effective Date: 9/1/15

HB 2230 by Larson Senate Sponsor: Estes
Relating to the authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to authorize an injection well used for oil and gas waste disposal to be used for the disposal of nonhazardous brine.
Effective Date: 9/1/15

HB 2244 by Zerwas Senate Sponsor: Creighton
Relating to the regulation of medical waste.
Effective Date: 9/1/15

HB 2598 by Kuempel Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini
Relating to the consideration of steel slag as solid waste by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Effective Date: 9/1/15

SB 200by Nelson House Sponsor: Price
Relating to the continuation and functions of the Health and Human Services Commission and the provision of health and human services in this state.
Effective Date: 9/1/15

SB 807 by Campbell House Sponsor: Sheets
Relating to occupational license application and examination fees for certain
military service members, military veterans, and military spouses.
Effective Date: 9/1/15

SB 1307 by Menendez House Sponsor: King, Susan
Relating to occupational licensing for military service members, military veterans,
and military spouses.
Effective Date: 1/1/16

- HB 1016 by King Senate Sponsor: Uresti
Relating to the designation of certain river or stream segments as being of unique ecological value.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 1042 by Frank Senate Sponsor: Estes
Relating to the designation of a site of unique value for the construction of a reservoir.
Effective Date: 5/21/2015
- HB 1068 by Zerwas Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to the creation of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 216.
Effective Date: 5/28/2015
- HB 1074 by Metcalf Senate Sponsor: Creighton
Relating to the creation of the Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 145.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 1111 by Farney Senate Sponsor: Schwertner
Relating to the powers and duties of the Williamson County Municipal Utility District No. 23.
Effective Date: 6/16/2015
- HB 1146 by Kacal Senate Sponsor: Schwertner
Relating to persons who may operate a public water supply system.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

HB 1235 by King Senate Sponsor: Estes
Relating to the annexation of certain territory by the Wise County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1.
Effective Date: 6/10/2015

HB 1336 by Bonnen Senate Sponsor: Huffman
Relating to fees of office for the Velasco Drainage District.
Effective Date: 6/16/2015

HB 1372 by Isaac Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini
Relating to the creation of the Cotton Center Municipal Utility District No.
Effective Date: 6/1/2015

HB 1421 by Bonnen Senate Sponsor: Kolkorst
Relating to fees charged by the Coastal Plains Groundwater Conservation District.
Effective Date: 6/16/2015

HB 1716 by Oliveira Senate Sponsor: Lucio
Relating to the term for a lease of land owned by certain navigation districts.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

HB 1819 by Miller Senate Sponsor: Fraser
Relating to the date for the election of directors of the Hill Country Underground Water Conservation District.

HB 1902 by Howard Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini
Relating to the regulation and use of graywater.
Effective Date: 6/16/2015

HB 2031 by Lucio III Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa
Relating to the development and production of marine seawater desalination, integrated marine seawater desalination, and facilities for the storage, conveyance, and delivery of desalinated marine seawater.
Effective Date: 6/17/2015

- HB 2091 by Zerwas Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to the creation of the Fulshear Municipal Utility Districts Nos. 4, 5, and 6.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 2092 by Zerwas Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to the road powers of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 182.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 2179 by Lucio III Senate Sponsor: Perry
Relating to hearings that concern the issuance of permits by a groundwater conservation district.
Effective Date: 6/10/2015
- HB 2200 by Thompson Senate Sponsor: Garcia
Relating to the powers of the Greater Greenspoint Management District of Harris County.
Effective Date: 5/28/15
- HB 2259 by Isaac Senate Sponsor: Campbell
Relating to the Driftwood Economic Development Municipal Management District.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 2401 by Isaac Senate Sponsor: Zaffirini
Relating to the powers of the Crosswinds Municipal Utility District.
Effective Date: 6/16/2015
- HB 2407 by Miller Senate Sponsor: Campbell
Relating to the creation of the Comal Trinity Groundwater Conservation District.
Effective Date: 6/17/2015

- HB 2552 by Parker Senate Sponsor: Nelson
Relating to the powers and duties of the Canyon Falls Municipal Utility District No. 1 of Denton County.
Effective Date: 6/10/2015
- HB 2767 by Keffer Senate Sponsor: Perry
Relating to the powers, duties, and administration of groundwater conservation districts.
Effective Date: 6/10/2015
- HB 2819 by Deshotel Senate Sponsor: Creighton
Relating to improvement projects of the Sabine-Neches Navigation District of Jefferson County, Texas.
- HB 3081 by Thompson Senate Sponsor: Taylor
Relating to the creation of the Brazoria County Municipal Utility District No. 68.
Effective Date: 5/28/2015
- HB 3099 by Fallon Senate Sponsor: Estes
Relating to the powers and duties and annexation of the Venable Ranch Municipal Utility District No. 1 of Denton County.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 3163 by Cyrrier Senate Sponsor: Watson
Relating to filing suit against board members of groundwater conservation districts.
Effective Date: 6/15/2015
- HB 3220 by Martinez Senate Sponsor: Hinojosa
Relating to the powers and duties of the Hidalgo County Water Control and Improvement District No. 18.
Effective Date: 6/15/2015

HB 3286 by Miller Senate Sponsor: Campbell
Relating to the dissolution of the Rebecca Creek Municipal Utility District.
Effective Date: 6/16/2015

HB 3405 by Isaac Senate Sponsor: Campbell
Relating to the territory and authority of the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer
Conservation District to regulate certain wells for the production of groundwater.
Effective Date: 6/19/2015

HB 3545 by Oliveira Senate Sponsor: Lucio
Relating to the establishment of an infrastructure improvement council by the Rio
Grande Regional Water Authority.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

HB 3603 by Burns Senate Sponsor: Birdwell
Relating to the creation of the Joshua Farms Municipal Management District No.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015

HB 3858 by Stephenson Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to fees charged by the Coastal Bend Groundwater Conservation District.
Effective Date: 5/22/2015

HB 3888 by Dutton Senate Sponsor: Whitmire
Relating to the creation of the Barrett Management District.
Effective Date: 6/19/2015

HB 4097 by Hunter Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to seawater desalination projects.
Effective Date: 6/17/2015

HB 4112 by Burns Senate Sponsor: Perry
Relating to the rights of an owner of groundwater.
Effective Date: 6/16/2015

- HB 4126 by Zerwas Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to the creation of the Fort Bend County Municipal Utility District No. 218.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 4127 by Metcalf Senate Sponsor: Creighton
Relating to the creation of the Foster Municipal Utility District No. 1 of Montgomery County.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 4129 by Bell Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 22.
Effective Date: 5/22/2015
- HB 4130 by Gonzales Senate Sponsor: Schwertner
Relating to the qualifications and method of electing directors of the Jonah Water Special Utility District.
Effective Date: 9/1/2015
- HB 4131 by Wu Senate Sponsor: Ellis
Relating to competitive bidding procedures and election requirements for the Westchase District.
Effective Date: 6/16/2015
- HB 4132 by Bell Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 21.
Effective Date: 5/22/2015
- HB 4133 by Bell Senate Sponsor: Kolkhorst
Relating to the creation of the Waller County Municipal Utility District No. 23.
Effective Date: 6/17/2015

LEGISLATIVE IMPLEMENTATION, 84th REGULAR LEGISLATURE, 2015

All Projects

Bill Type	Bill No.	Author	Caption/Description	Effective Date	Lead Office	Lead Person	IGR Contact	Rule	Guide	OPPs	Fast Track	Implementation Schedule	Comments
HB	7	Darby	Relating to the amounts, availability, and use of certain statutorily dedicated revenue and accounts.	9/1/2015	OAS	Greg Yturralde	IA					TCEQ staff will notify comptroller staff of the new rates for the Petroleum Storage Tank Remediation to begin the process of updating the system.	The bill requires the LBB to develop and implement a process to review legislative enactments creating dedicated revenue (GRD), review the appropriation and accumulation of GRD, and review available GRD. The bill also directs the LBB to develop and implement tools to evaluate the use of GRD for state financing and appropriations and provide a detailed recommendation on action the Legislature may take to reduce state reliance on GRD. The bill also requires the LBB to incorporate appropriation measures to limit the dependence on GRD. This provision only impacts the Petroleum Storage Tank Remediation, the Clean Air, Texas Emission Reduction Plan, and Hazardous and Solid Waste Remediation Accounts.
HB	30	Larson	Relating to the development of brackish groundwater.	9/1/2015	WTR	Kelly Mills	IJ					Effective 9/1/2015	The bill requires that regional water plans identify opportunities for and the benefits of developing large-scale desalination facilities for seawater or brackish groundwater that serve local or regional brackish groundwater production zones. The bill requires brackish groundwater to be included in these studies and research, requires the TWDB's biennial report on desalination activities to identify and designate brackish groundwater production zones that can be used to reduce reliance on fresh groundwater, gives the TWDB criteria to identify brackish groundwater production zones, and requires TWDB to coordinate with groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) and stakeholders when identifying and designating brackish groundwater production zones. The Act requires TWDB to identify the designation of brackish groundwater production zones for the portion of the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer located between the Colorado and Rio Grande Rivers, the Gulf Coast Aquifer and sediments bordering that aquifer, the Blaine Aquifer, and the Rustler Aquifer in the TWDB's biennial progress report before December 1, 2016. The Act requires TWDB to identify and designate brackish groundwater production zones for all other areas of the state by December 1, 2022.
HB	163	Larson	Relating to interstate cooperation to address regional water issues.	9/1/2015	WTR	Allison Woodall	IJ					Effective : 9/1/2015	HB 163 amends Chapter 8 of the Water Code which reinstates the newly named Southwestern States Water Commission to advise the governor and the legislature on water needs and water supply alternatives of the region in cooperation with neighboring states and Mexico.
HB	200	Keffer	Relating to the regulation of groundwater.	9/1/2015	WTR	Kelly Mills	IJ/MH					Effective: 9/1/2015	The bill amends §36.0015 by adding a definition for 'best available science' and clarifying that groundwater conservation districts (GCDs) are the state's preferred method of groundwater management in order to protect property rights, balance the conservation and development of groundwater to meet the needs of this state, and use the best available science in the conservation and development of groundwater through rules developed, adopted, and promulgated by a GCD. The bill provides that if a GCD prevails on some, but not all issues in a suit, the court shall award attorney's fees and costs only for the issues on which the GCD prevails. The bill amends §36.108 to provide that GCDs consider and document relevant scientific and hydrogeological data to establish different desired future conditions for aquifers, subdivisions of aquifers, geologic strata, or geographic area. The bill amends §36.1083 to create a contested case hearing process to allow an affected person to challenge an approved desired future condition (DFC) by appealing the DFC to the GCD. The bill adds new §36.10835 to provide for a judicial appeal of a DFC after the conclusion of the contested case hearing. The bill provides that these changes only apply to a DFC adopted on or after September 1, 2015, the effective date for the bill.

Bill Type	Bill No.	Author	Caption/Description	Effective Date	Lead Office	Lead Person	IGR Contact	Rule	Guide	0PPs	Fast Track	Implementation Schedule	Comments
HB	281	Simmons	Relating to a limitation on the expansion of certain landfills.	9/1/2015	WST	Gulay Aki	CA					Completed	The bill amends the THSC by adding Section 361.1231(a) & (b) to state that TCEQ may not approve an application for the issuance, amendment, or renewal of a permit that seeks to expand the area or capacity of a landfill unless the governing body of the municipality in which the landfill is located first approves by resolution or order the issuance, amendment, or renewal of the permit. This section applies only to a municipality other than the municipality in which it is located. New Section 361.1231(c) requires the TCEQ to provide members of the legislature who represent the district where a landfill meets the criteria an opportunity to comment on the application and require those comments to be considered when evaluating an application.
HB	655	Larson	Relating to the storage and recovery of water in aquifers.	9/1/2015	WST	Monica Sullivan	IA	X				Rule Proposal: 12/9/15; Rule Adoption: 4/20/16; Effective: 5/12/16	The bill amend TWC to add requirements for ASR projects, which involve the use of Class V UIC wells for the injection of water into subsurface geologic units, where it is stored for future recovery and beneficial use. The bill directs the TCEQ to adopt standards for ASR projects, including well design and operation, quality of injected water, public notice, reporting, and injection and recovery of appropriated water. In addition, the bill directs the TCEQ to define the term "native groundwater" as "groundwater naturally occurring in a geologic formation". Requires adoption of rules in 30 TAC Ch. 331, 30 TAC Ch. 297, and 30 TAC Ch. 295.
HB	763	S. King	Relating to a petition to a state agency for adoption of rules.	9/1/2015	OLS	Gitanjali Yadav	IA	X				Proposed Agenda: August 9th, 2015 Adoption Agenda: December 9, 2015	The bill requires that an interested person submitting a petition requesting the adoption of agency rules be a Texas resident. A business, governmental subdivision, or a public or private organization submitting a petition would have to be located in Texas and could not be a state agency. If the agency required a signed petition under this process, the bill would require that more than half the signatures be from Texas residents.
HB	801	King	Relating to planning for the use of and liability resulting from prescribed burns by the Parks and Wildlife Department.	9/1/2015	OCE	Santos Oliveras	FF					Implemented by January 1, 2016	This bill establishes definitions and standards for prescribed burns conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) on state land managed by the department. The legislation is not anticipated to require changes in TCEQ policy and procedures in granting approval of prescribed burn or in air-permitted related rules, policies , or programs.
HB	942	Kacal	Relating to the storage of certain hazardous chemicals.	9/1/2015	OCE	Melinda Johnston	FF	X				Effective September 1, 2015(due to the large number of tsatks and multi-divisional interatction for implementation, final timeline is still under development.)	This bill transfers the Tier II Chemical Reporting Program from DSHS to TCEQ by transferring the authority provided under the Texas Health and Safety Code Chapters 505, 506, 507.
HB	1146	Kacal	Relating to volunteer operations for public water systems.	9/1/2015	OW	James Beauchamp	IJ	X			X	Proposal Agenda: 8/5/2015 Public Hearing: 9/14/2014 Adoption Agenda: 11/18/15 Effective date of rules: 12/10/15	The bill adds §341.033(a-1) and amends §341.034(a) of the Texas Health and Safety Code (THSC) to allow public water systems to use licensed volunteer operators; requires the public water system to maintain certain records for each volunteer; and requires a volunteer to be licensed under Chapter 37 of the Texas Water Code. HB 1146 also requires the commission to adopt rules necessary to implement changes to the THSC no later than December 1, 2015 and is effective September 1, 2015.
HB	1794	Geren	Relating to maximum penalties for certain environmental violations.	9/1/2015	OLS	Gitanjali Yadav	FF					Effective September 1, 2015	HB 1794 amends section 7.107 of the Texas Water Code, Subchapter D, Civil Penalties to change the manner in which civil penalties are divided in the NIP suits. HB 1794 equally divides the first \$4.3 million recovered between the state and the local government and provides that any amount in excess of \$4.3 million be awarded to the state.

Bill Type	Bill No.	Author	Caption/Description	Effective Date	Lead Office	Lead Person	IGR Contact	Rule	Guide	OPPs	Fast Track	Implementation Schedule	Comments
HB	1902	Howard	Relating to the regulation and use of greywater and alternative onsite water.	9/1/2015	OW	Chris Linendoll	IJ	X				Rulemaking to be complete by 1/1/17 with regulatory guidance manual by 6/1/18	The bill amended Chapters 341 and 366 of the Health and Safety Code and Chapter 26 of the Water Code in relation to the use of graywater. The bill requires TCEQ to develop standards for both the outdoor (currently allowed) and indoor use of graywater (specifically for toilet and urinal flushing). The bill creates a new regulatory program for "alternative onsite water" and directs TCEQ to develop similar standards for this new source of water similar to graywater. Additionally the bill allows an adjustment in size of an on-site sewage disposal system if this system is used in conjunction with a graywater system
HB	2031	Lucio III	Relating to the development and production of marine seawater desalination, integrated marine seawater desalination, and facilities for the storage, conveyance, and delivery of desalinated marine seawater.	9/1/2015	WTR	Ron Ellis	IJ/IA	X				Rulemaking and revisions to policies, procedures, and forms are targeted for completion by September 2016.	The bill relates to the diversion and use of state marine seawater for beneficial purposes, requiring permits for both the diversion of state marine seawater and the discharge of treated seawater and desalination waste back into surface water sources. Both actions would be prohibited from occurring within coastal bays and estuaries. The bill also would require a joint study between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and the General Land Office (GLO) to identify diversion and discharge zones and provide recommendations on where intake and discharge structures could be permitted by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The bill would provide for notice requirements, as well as opportunity for public hearings and contested case hearings for any project within three miles of the coast.
	2230	Larson	Relating to the authority of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to authorize an injection well used for oil and gas waste disposal to be used for the disposal of nonhazardous brine.	9/1/2015	WST	Monica Sullivan	IA	X				Tentative Proposed date: June 2016 Tentative Adoption date: December 2016	The bill would authorize the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to use its class V injection well authority — by individual permit, general permit, or permit by rule — for the disposal of desalination waste streams into a class II injection well permitted by the Texas Railroad Commission. TCEQ and the Railroad Commission would, by rule, be required to enter into a memorandum of understanding on this dual authorization authority. requires amendment of the TCEQ/RRC MOU through the rulemaking process.
HB	2244	Zerwas	Relating to the regulation of medical waste	9/1/2015	WST	Gulay Aki	IA/CA	X				Effective: immediately; Rule Proposal: 12/9/15; Rule Adotion: 4/20/16	Rule Adoption required by 6/1/16; The bill amends the THSC Sec. 361.003 to add the term "Health Care-Related Facility" and references the definition under Title 25 TAC, Sec. 1.134 of TDSHS. The bill adds new Sec. 361.0905 "Regulation of Medical Waste" requiring the commission to require a permit, registration, or other authorization for handling, storage, disposal, and transportation of medical waste. Title 30 TAC Ch. 330 implements THSC, Ch. 361, which requires the commission to safeguard the health, welfare, and physical property of the people and to protect the environment by controlling the management of solid waste, including accounting for types of solid wastes such as medical waste.
HB	2598	Kuempel	Relating to the consideration of exclusion of steel slag as solid waste by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	9/1/2015	OOW	Bob Patton	CA	X				Proposal: 12/9/15; Adoption: 5/18/16	The bill exempts steel slag from regulation as a solid waste if: 1) the steel slag is generated as an intended output or result from an electric arc furnace to make steel, and is introduced into the stream of commerce; or 2) managed as an item of commercial value, including through a controlled use in a manner constituting disposal, and not as discarded material. Requires revisions to 30 TAC Ch. 335
HB	2763	Thompson, Ed	Relating to a study of economically recyclable materials, economic impacts to the state and local governments of existing and increased recycling, the development of new markets for recycled materials.	9/1/2015	EXEC	David Greer	CA					Final Report Issued: 10/17	The legislation requires TCEQ to conduct a study on the current and potential economic impacts of recycling. The study must assess current recycling efforts, identify ways to improve those efforts, identify new recycling markets, investigate new funding, and assess potential job creation from increased recycling. The results will be published as part of the 2016 Annual Municipal Solid Waste Summary. The agency will implement through a contract.
HB	2767	Keffer	Relating to powers, duties, and administration of groundwater conservation districts.	9/1/2015	OW	Kelly Mills	IJ	X				Tentative Proposed date: October 2015; Tentative Adoption date: April 2016	The bill amends the Water Code, Chapter 36 relating to the powers, duties and administration of groundwater conservation districts (GCDs). The bill makes non-substantive, conforming, or clarification language changes throughout Chapter 36.

