

SUBJECT: Merging the used oil recycling and water resource management accounts

COMMITTEE: Appropriations — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 24 ayes — Zerwas, Longoria, Ashby, G. Bonnen, Cospers, S. Davis, Dean, Giddings, Gonzales, González, Howard, Koop, Miller, Muñoz, Perez, Phelan, Raney, Roberts, J. Rodriguez, Rose, Sheffield, Simmons, VanDeaver, Walle

0 nays

3 absent — Capriglione, Dukes, Wu

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 19 — 30-1 (V. Taylor), on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: *On House companion bill, HB 3026:*
For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Adam Cahn, Cahnman's Musings; Heather Cooke, City of Austin, Water Environment Association of Texas, Texas Association of Clean Water Agencies; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club; Trent Townsend, The Nature Conservancy; Jeff Heckler, San Antonio Water System; Amanda Martin, Texas Association of Business; Stephanie Simpson, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Scott Stewart, Texas Chemical Council; Joshua Houston, Texas Impact; Lindsey Miller, Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association)

Against — None

On — Elizabeth Sifuentez Koch, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

BACKGROUND: Water Code, sec. 26.0291 establishes a water quality fee that is to be deposited in the water resource management account. The funds in the account may be appropriated and used by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to protect water resources in the state, including

assessment of water quality.

Health and Safety Code, sec. 371.061 establishes the used oil recycling account, which consists of fees imposed on used oil collection centers, used oil handlers, and the sale of automotive oil, as well as interest and penalties related to the fees and gifts, grants, or donations. The fund is to be used for public education on used oil recycling, supporting used oil collection centers, and related costs.

Some observers have suggested that the water resource management account does not have sufficient revenue to sustain the programs it supports, while the used oil recycling fund underutilizes funds that could be used elsewhere.

DIGEST: SB 1105 would eliminate the used oil recycling account and transfer any remaining funds and future deposits to the water resource management account. The bill also would include the currently allowed uses for money in the used oil recycling account, such as public education with regard to used oil recycling, in the allowed uses for money in the water resource management account.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

NOTES: A companion bill, HB 3026 by Phelan, approved by the House on May 9.