

SUBJECT: Revising the board of the Gateway Groundwater Conservation District

COMMITTEE: Natural Resources — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Larson, Metcalf, Farrar, Harris, Price, Ramos

0 nays

5 absent — Dominguez, T. King, Lang, Nevárez, Oliverson

WITNESSES: For — Monique Norman, Gateway Groundwater Conservation District
(*Registered, but did not testify*: Robert Turner, Texas Poultry Federation)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: John Dupnik, Texas Water Development Board)

BACKGROUND: Under Water Code sec. 36.051(a), the number of seats on the board of directors of a groundwater conservation district must be at least five and no more than 11. The number of directors may be changed as determined by the board when territory is annexed by the district.

Special District Local Laws Code sec. 8839.052 requires that each county of the Gateway Groundwater Conservation District appoint an equal number of directors.

DIGEST: HB 925 would require the board of directors of the Gateway Groundwater Conservation District to consist of not more than two directors for each county in the district. The board could change the total number of directors if the district annexed territory.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 925 would allow all counties in the Gateway Groundwater Conservation District to be represented equally on its board of directors by capping its membership at not more than two directors per county. Before King County voted in November 2018 to be annexed into the district, the board was made up of two members from each of the district's five counties. This bill would allow for continued equal representation by allowing the district to expand to 12 members, up from its current cap of 11, now that there are six counties in the district.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.