

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R9816 QS-D

H.B. 2432
By: Cook (Armbrister)
Natural Resources
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Engrossed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Texas faces a difficult challenge to develop water policies that serve state, regional, rural, and urban water interests. The Texas Constitution authorizes the creation of groundwater conservation districts to plan, develop, and regulate the use of water. Currently, the area of Bastrop and Lee Counties is dependent on the waters of the Carrizo-Wilcox underground aquifer for most of its water supply. Although there are other surface water sources in and around these two counties, in this rural area the residents are highly dependent on well water for survival. The entire Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer is threatened by over production and potential pollution that may devastate the health, lifestyles, and economic well-being of every citizen in the region. As the population of these counties and the entire area grows, the dependence on and demand for water will continue to increase. H.B. 2432 ratifies the creation of the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District, subject to voter approval at a confirmation election, to manage the groundwater resources of Bastrop and Lee counties.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District in SECTION 4 of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. RATIFICATION OF CREATION. Sets forth provisions regarding the creation of the Lost Pines Groundwater Conservation District (district).

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS. Defines “district” and “public utility.”

SECTION 3. BOUNDARIES. Provides that the boundaries of the district are coextensive with the boundaries of Bastrop and Lee counties, Texas.

SECTION 4. POWERS. Sets forth provisions regarding the powers of the district.

SECTION 5. GROUNDWATER WELLS UNDER JURISDICTION OF RAILROAD COMMISSION. Sets forth provisions regarding groundwater wells under jurisdiction of the railroad commission.

SECTION 6. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Provides that the board is composed of certain members.

SECTION 7. INITIAL MEETING AND CONFIRMATION ELECTION. Requires the temporary board of directors to set the date for and call the confirmation election.

SECTION 8. STATUTORY INTERPRETATION. Provides that if there is a conflict between this Act and Chapter 36, Water Code, this Act prevails.

SECTION 9. REGIONAL COOPERATION. Requires the district to perform certain duties.

SECTION 10. FINDINGS RELATING TO PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS. Sets forth findings that the procedural requirements concerning this Act have been met.

SECTION 11. EFFECTIVE DATE; EXPIRATION DATE. (a) Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.

(b) Provides that if the district is not confirmed before September 1, 2005, this Act expires on that date.