

- SUBJECT:** Requiring a study of water needs and availability in this state
- COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Larson, Phelan, Ashby, Burns, Frank, Kacal, T. King, Lucio, Price, Workman
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — Nevárez
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 19 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Kenneth Hodges, Corn Producers Association of Texas; Charles Flatten, Hill Country Alliance; Blaire Parker, San Antonio Water System; Sarah Schlessinger, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts; Stephen Minick, Texas Association of Business; Scott Norman, Texas Association of Builders; Martha Landwehr, Texas Chemical Council; Kyle Frazier, Texas Desalination Association)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Robert Turner, West Texas Ground Water Management Alliance)
- On — Christopher Mullins, Sierra Club; Matt Nelson, Texas Water Development Board (*Registered, but did not testify:* Robert Mace, Texas Water Development Board)
- BACKGROUND:** Interested parties note the importance of ensuring that the future water needs of Texas are adequately met, and that a study of water needs and availability would help address this objective.
- DIGEST:** SB 1525 would require the Texas Water Development Board to conduct a study of water needs and availability in Texas and use the study results to create a comprehensive water resources map. The map developed by the board and the findings of the study would be submitted to the committees of the Legislature with primary jurisdiction over water development by

December 1, 2018.

The study used to develop the map would consider:

- opportunities, obstacles, and costs associated with the development of new water sources;
- potential locations for marine seawater and brackish groundwater desalination facilities;
- allocation of costs associated with moving desalinated water from the place of production to end users;
- potential for the use of public-private partnerships for water development projects in the state; and
- methods to ensure stakeholders from all water user groups were included in the development of plans for water use in the state.

The board could consult with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on the study.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.