

- SUBJECT:** Expanding uses of the floodplain management account
- COMMITTEE:** Natural Resources — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Larson, Phelan, Ashby, Burns, Frank, T. King, Lucio, Price
0 nays
3 absent — Kacal, Nevárez, Workman
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 19 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar
- WITNESSES:** *On House companion bill, HB 3746:*
For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jesse Ozuna, City of Houston Mayor's Office; Myron Hess, National Wildlife Federation; Christopher Mullins, Sierra Club; Randy Chelette; Ron Suchecki)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Robert Martinez, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; Robert Mace, Texas Water Development Board)
- BACKGROUND:** Water Code, sec. 16.3161 governs the floodplain management account, which is a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund. The fund is composed of money appropriated to the Texas Water Development Board, gifts or grants, and the first \$3.05 million of insurance maintenance taxes collected each fiscal year. The board may use the account to aid, advise, and coordinate the efforts of local governments seeking to qualify for the National Flood Insurance Program.
- DIGEST:** SB 1538 would authorize the Texas Water Development Board to use the floodplain management account to fund any activities related to:
- the collection and analysis of flood-related information;
 - flood planning, protection, mitigation, or adaptation; or

- educational or outreach programs providing flood-related information.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

SB 1538 would expand the allowable uses of funds in the floodplain management account. This expansion would allow the Texas Water Development Board to fund flood gauges and to receive financial assistance for installing early-warning systems, which are critical to local communities in Texas.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

A companion bill, HB 3746 by Phelan, was approved by the House on May 10.