

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1016
By: Puente (Madla)
Natural Resources
5-6-97
Engrossed

DIGEST

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is authorized to impose fees for processing plans subject to review under TNRCC's rules for the protection of the Edwards Aquifer and the inspection of projects in those plans. The applicable TNRCC rules regulate activities having the potential for polluting the Edwards Aquifer and hydrologically connected surface streams. Currently, TNRCC has limited funds for the Edwards Aquifer program. Program fees specifically targeted for the Edwards Aquifer programs would help remedy the problem of limited funding for Edwards Aquifer pollution prevention. This bill will increase the maximum amount of the fee TNRCC may charge for processing plans and requires the fees to be used only for TNRCC's Edwards Aquifer programs.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1016 increases the maximum amount of the fee the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) may charge for processing plans, and requires the fees to be used only for TNRCC's Edwards Aquifer programs.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 26.0461(d) and (h), Water Code, to prohibit a fee imposed under this section from being more than \$5,000, rather than \$2,000. Requires a fee collected under this section to be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the water quality fund to be used only for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's Edwards Aquifer programs.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.