

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1562  
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Natural Resources  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 1562 allows a regional water planning group in a rural area to apply for a loan or grant for money to purchase equipment needed to complete the group's plan. The bill allows a regional water planning group to amend the water plan submitted to the Texas Water Development Board provided the region provides public notice before making any changes to the plan. Lastly, the bill allows border regions to work with Mexico and New Mexico in preparing the region's water plan since some border regions share water reservoirs with other states or countries and their needs must be included in the plan.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

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

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 16.053, Water Code, by adding Subsections (p) through (r), as follows:

(p) Authorizes a regional water planning group (group) that substantially comprises rural areas, in addition to the financial assistance provided under Subsection (g), to apply for a loan or grant of money from the Texas Water Development Board (board) to purchase equipment necessary for developing the group's plan, including funding for test wells and observation wells, monitoring equipment, groundwater modeling, and data collection for aquifers in the region. Requires the board to determine the terms and conditions governing any loan or grant of money made under this subsection and to determine whether to approve an application for a loan or grant of money. Authorizes the legislature to appropriate money for financial assistance authorized by this subsection.

(q) Authorizes a group whose adopted regional water plan has been approved by the board to apply to have its plan revised whenever the group considers the revision to be necessary. Requires the board to determine whether to approve the revision in accordance with Subsections (e) and (f). Requires the group, at least 30 days before applying for a proposed revision under this subsection, to provide public notice as provided by Subsection (h)(8) and to hold at least one public meeting at some central location within the area to receive comment from the public.

(r) Authorizes a group lying within the Texas-Mexico border region to cooperate in developing its regional water plan with the United Mexican States or any of its political subdivisions that border the state or that share a water resource with the state, or the state of New Mexico or any of its political subdivisions that border the Texas-Mexico border region or that share a water resource with the region.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2001.