

By: Puente

H.B. No. 4

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4:

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C.S.H.B. No. 4

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to water conservation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 1.003, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 1.003. PUBLIC POLICY. It is the public policy of the state to provide for the conservation and development of the state's natural resources, including:

(1) the control, storage, preservation, and distribution of the state's storm and floodwaters and the waters of its rivers and streams for irrigation, power, and other useful purposes;

(2) the reclamation and irrigation of the state's arid, semiarid, and other land needing irrigation;

(3) the reclamation and drainage of the state's overflowed land and other land needing drainage;

(4) the conservation and development of its forest, water, and hydroelectric power;

(5) the navigation of the state's inland and coastal waters; ~~and~~

(6) the maintenance of a proper ecological environment of the bays and estuaries of Texas and the health of related living marine resources; and

(7) the voluntary stewardship of public and private

1 lands to benefit waters of the state.

2 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 1, Water Code, is amended  
3 by adding Section 1.004 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 1.004. FINDINGS AND POLICY REGARDING LAND STEWARDSHIP.

5 (a) The legislature finds that voluntary land stewardship  
6 enhances the efficiency and effectiveness of this state's  
7 watersheds by helping to increase surface water and groundwater  
8 supplies, resulting in a benefit to the natural resources of this  
9 state and to the general public. It is therefore the policy of this  
10 state to encourage voluntary land stewardship as a significant  
11 water management tool.

12 (b) "Land stewardship," as used in this code, is the  
13 voluntary practice of managing land to conserve or enhance suitable  
14 landscapes and the ecosystem values of the land. Land stewardship  
15 includes land and habitat management, wildlife conservation, and  
16 watershed protection. Land stewardship practices include runoff  
17 reduction, prescribed burning, managed grazing, brush management,  
18 erosion management, reseeding with native plant species, riparian  
19 management and restoration, and spring and creek-bank protection,  
20 all of which benefit the water resources of this state.

21 SECTION 3. Subtitle A, Title 2, Water Code, is amended by  
22 adding Chapter 10 to read as follows:

23 CHAPTER 10. WATER CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

24 Sec. 10.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

25 (1) "Best management practices" has the meaning  
26 assigned by Section 11.002.

27 (2) "Board" means the Texas Water Development Board.

1           (3) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on  
2 Environmental Quality.

3           (4) "Council" means the Water Conservation Advisory  
4 Council.

5           Sec. 10.002. PURPOSE. The council is created to provide the  
6 governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of  
7 representatives, legislature, board, commission, political  
8 subdivisions, and public with the resource of a select council with  
9 expertise in water conservation.

10          Sec. 10.003. CREATION AND MEMBERSHIP. (a) The council is  
11 composed of 23 members appointed by the board. The board shall  
12 appoint one member to represent each of the following entities or  
13 interest groups:

14           (1) Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;

15           (2) Department of Agriculture;

16           (3) Parks and Wildlife Department;

17           (4) State Soil and Water Conservation Board;

18           (5) Texas Water Development Board;

19           (6) regional water planning groups;

20           (7) federal agencies;

21           (8) municipalities;

22           (9) groundwater conservation districts;

23           (10) river authorities;

24           (11) environmental groups;

25           (12) irrigation districts;

26           (13) institutional water users;

27           (14) professional organizations focused on water

1 conservation;

2 (15) higher education;

3 (16) agricultural groups;

4 (17) refining and chemical manufacturing;

5 (18) electric generation;

6 (19) mining and recovery of minerals;

7 (20) landscape irrigation and horticulture;

8 (21) water control and improvement districts;

9 (22) rural water users; and

10 (23) municipal utility districts.

11 (b) Each entity or interest group described by Subsection  
12 (a) may recommend one or more persons to fill the position on the  
13 council held by the member who represents that entity or interest  
14 group. If one or more persons are recommended for a position on the  
15 council, the board shall appoint one of the persons recommended to  
16 fill the position.

17 Sec. 10.004. TERMS. (a) Members of the council serve  
18 staggered terms of six years, with seven or eight members' terms, as  
19 applicable, expiring August 31 of each odd-numbered year.

20 (b) The board shall fill a vacancy on the council for the  
21 unexpired term by appointing a person who has the same  
22 qualifications as required under Section 10.003 for the person who  
23 previously held the vacated position.

24 Sec. 10.005. PRESIDING OFFICER. The council members shall  
25 select one member as the presiding officer of the council to serve  
26 in that capacity until the person's term as a council member  
27 expires.

1       Sec. 10.006. COUNCIL STAFF. On request by the council, the  
2 board shall provide any necessary staff to assist the council in the  
3 performance of its duties.

4       Sec. 10.007. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a)  
5 The council may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill its duties  
6 under this chapter.

7       (b) The council is subject to Chapters 551 and 552,  
8 Government Code.

9       Sec. 10.008. INAPPLICABILITY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE LAW.  
10 Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the size,  
11 composition, or duration of the council.

12       Sec. 10.009. COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS. (a) Members of the  
13 council serve without compensation but may be reimbursed by  
14 legislative appropriation for actual and necessary expenses  
15 related to the performance of council duties.

16       (b) Reimbursement under Subsection (a) is subject to the  
17 approval of the presiding officer of the council.

18       Sec. 10.010. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNCIL. The council  
19 shall:

20               (1) monitor trends in water conservation  
21 implementation;

22               (2) monitor new technologies for possible inclusion by  
23 the board as best management practices in the best management  
24 practices guide developed by the water conservation implementation  
25 task force under Chapter 109, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular  
26 Session, 2003;

27               (3) monitor the effectiveness of the statewide water

1 conservation public awareness program developed under Section  
2 16.401 and associated local involvement in implementation of the  
3 program;

4 (4) develop and implement a state water management  
5 resource library;

6 (5) develop and implement a public recognition program  
7 for water conservation;

8 (6) monitor the implementation of water conservation  
9 strategies by water users included in regional water plans; and

10 (7) monitor target and goal guidelines for water  
11 conservation to be considered by the board and commission.

12 Sec. 10.011. REPORT. Not later than December 1 of each  
13 even-numbered year, the council shall submit to the governor,  
14 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives a  
15 report on progress made in water conservation in this state.

16 Sec. 10.012. DESIGNATION OF CERTIFIED WATER CONSERVATION  
17 TRAINING FACILITIES STUDY. (a) The council shall conduct a study  
18 to evaluate the desirability of requiring the board to:

19 (1) designate as certified water conservation  
20 training facilities entities and programs that provide assistance  
21 to retail public utilities in developing water conservation plans  
22 under Section 13.146; and

23 (2) give preference to certified water conservation  
24 training facilities in making loans or grants for water  
25 conservation training and education activities.

26 (b) Not later than December 1, 2008, the council shall  
27 submit a written report containing the findings of the study and the

1 recommendations of the council to the governor, lieutenant  
2 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives.

3 (c) This section expires June 1, 2009.

4 SECTION 4. Section 11.002, Water Code, is amended by adding  
5 Subdivision (15) to read as follows:

6 (15) "Best management practices" means those  
7 voluntary efficiency measures developed by the commission and the  
8 board that save a quantifiable amount of water, either directly or  
9 indirectly, and that can be implemented within a specified time  
10 frame.

11 SECTION 5. Section 11.0235(b), Water Code, is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 (b) Maintaining the biological soundness of the state's  
14 rivers, lakes, bays, and estuaries is of great importance to the  
15 public's economic health and general well-being. The legislature  
16 encourages voluntary water and land stewardship to benefit the  
17 water in the state, as defined by Section 26.001.

18 SECTION 6. Subchapter E, Chapter 13, Water Code, is amended  
19 by adding Section 13.146 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 13.146. WATER CONSERVATION PLAN. The commission shall  
21 require a retail public utility that provides potable water service  
22 to 3,300 or more connections to submit to the executive  
23 administrator of the board a water conservation plan based on  
24 specific targets and goals developed by the retail public utility  
25 and using appropriate best management practices, as defined by  
26 Section 11.002, or other water conservation strategies.

27 SECTION 7. Section 15.102(b), Water Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 (b) The loan fund may also be used by the board to provide:

3 (1) grants or loans for projects that include  
4 supplying water and wastewater services in economically distressed  
5 areas or nonborder colonias as provided by legislative  
6 appropriations, this chapter, and board rules, including projects  
7 involving retail distribution of those services; and

8 (2) grants for:

9 (A) projects for which federal grant funds are  
10 placed in the loan fund;

11 (B) projects, on specific legislative  
12 appropriation for those projects; or

13 (C) water conservation, desalination, brush  
14 control, weather modification, regionalization, and projects  
15 providing regional water quality enhancement services as defined by  
16 board rule, including regional conveyance systems.

17 SECTION 8. Chapter 16, Water Code, is amended by adding  
18 Subchapter K to read as follows:

19 SUBCHAPTER K. WATER CONSERVATION

20 Sec. 16.401. STATEWIDE WATER CONSERVATION PUBLIC AWARENESS  
21 PROGRAM. (a) The executive administrator shall develop and  
22 implement a statewide water conservation public awareness program  
23 to educate residents of this state about water conservation. The  
24 program shall take into account the differences in water  
25 conservation needs of various geographic regions of the state and  
26 shall be designed to complement and support existing local and  
27 regional water conservation programs.



1       (b) The executive administrator is required to develop and  
2 implement the program required by Subsection (a) in a state fiscal  
3 biennium only if the legislature appropriates sufficient money in  
4 that biennium specifically for that purpose.

5       Sec. 16.402. WATER CONSERVATION PLAN REVIEW. (a) Each  
6 entity that is required to submit a water conservation plan to the  
7 commission under this code shall submit a copy of the plan to the  
8 executive administrator.

9       (b) Each entity that is required to submit a water  
10 conservation plan to the executive administrator, board, or  
11 commission under this code shall report annually to the executive  
12 administrator on the entity's progress in implementing the plan.

13       (c) The executive administrator shall review each water  
14 conservation plan and annual report to determine compliance with  
15 the minimum requirements established by Section 11.1271 and the  
16 submission deadlines developed under Subsection (e) of this  
17 section.

18       (d) The board may notify the commission if the board  
19 determines that an entity has violated this section or a rule  
20 adopted under this section. Notwithstanding Section 7.051(b), a  
21 violation of this section or of a rule adopted under this section is  
22 enforceable in the manner provided by Chapter 7 for a violation of a  
23 provision of this code within the commission's jurisdiction or of a  
24 rule adopted by the commission under a provision of this code within  
25 the commission's jurisdiction.

26       (e) The board and commission jointly shall adopt rules:

27       (1) identifying the minimum requirements and

1 submission deadlines for the annual reports required by Subsection  
2 (b); and

3 (2) providing for the enforcement of this section and  
4 rules adopted under this section.

5 SECTION 9. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 51.969 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 51.969. ON-SITE RECLAIMED SYSTEM TECHNOLOGIES  
8 CURRICULUM. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
9 encourage each institution of higher education to develop  
10 curriculum and provide related instruction regarding on-site  
11 reclaimed system technologies, including rainwater harvesting,  
12 condensate collection, or cooling tower blow down.

13 SECTION 10. Section 447.004, Government Code, is amended by  
14 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

15 (c-1) The procedural standards adopted under this section  
16 must require that on-site reclaimed system technologies, including  
17 rainwater harvesting, condensate collection, or cooling tower blow  
18 down, or a combination of those system technologies, for nonpotable  
19 indoor use and landscape watering be incorporated into the design  
20 and construction of:

21 (1) each new state building with a roof measuring at  
22 least 10,000 square feet; and

23 (2) any other new state building for which the  
24 incorporation of such systems is feasible.

25 SECTION 11. Section 341.042, Health and Safety Code, is  
26 amended to read as follows:

27 Sec. 341.042. STANDARDS FOR HARVESTED RAINWATER. (a) The

1 commission shall establish recommended standards relating to the  
2 domestic use of harvested rainwater, including health and safety  
3 standards for treatment and collection methods for harvested  
4 rainwater intended for drinking, cooking, or bathing.

5 (b) The commission by rule shall provide that if a structure  
6 is connected to a public water supply system and has a rainwater  
7 harvesting system for indoor use:

8 (1) the structure must have appropriate  
9 cross-connection safeguards; and

10 (2) the rainwater harvesting system may be used only  
11 for nonpotable indoor purposes.

12 (c) Standards and rules adopted by the commission under this  
13 chapter governing public drinking water supply systems do not apply  
14 to a person:

15 (1) who harvests rainwater for domestic use; and

16 (2) whose property is not connected to a public  
17 drinking water supply system.

18 SECTION 12. Chapter 401, Local Government Code, is amended  
19 by adding Section 401.006 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 401.006. WATER CONSERVATION BY HOME-RULE  
21 MUNICIPALITY. A home-rule municipality may adopt and enforce  
22 ordinances requiring water conservation in the municipality and by  
23 customers of the municipality's municipally owned water and sewer  
24 utility in the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the municipality.

25 SECTION 13. Section 1903.053, Occupations Code, is amended  
26 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 1903.053. STANDARDS. (a) The commission shall adopt

1 by rule and enforce standards governing:

2           (1) the connection of irrigation systems to any water  
3 supply;

4           (2) the design, installation, and operation of  
5 irrigation systems;

6           (3) water conservation; and

7           (4) the duties and responsibilities of licensed  
8 irrigators.

9           (b) ~~[The commission may adopt standards for irrigation that~~  
10 ~~include water conservation, irrigation system design and~~  
11 ~~installation, and compliance with municipal codes.~~

12           ~~[(c)]~~ The commission may not require or prohibit the use of  
13 any irrigation system, component part, or equipment of any  
14 particular brand or manufacturer.

15           (c) In adopting standards under this section, the  
16 commission shall consult the council.

17           SECTION 14. As soon as practicable on or after the effective  
18 date of this Act, the Texas Water Development Board shall appoint  
19 the initial members of the Water Conservation Advisory Council, as  
20 required by Section 10.003, Water Code, as added by this Act. In  
21 making the initial appointments, the board shall designate seven  
22 members to serve terms expiring August 31, 2009, eight members to  
23 serve terms expiring August 31, 2011, and eight members to serve  
24 terms expiring August 31, 2013.

25           SECTION 15. Section 15.102(b), Water Code, as amended by  
26 this Act, applies only to an application for financial assistance  
27 filed with the Texas Water Development Board on or after the

1 effective date of this Act. An application for financial assistance  
2 filed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law  
3 in effect on the date the application was filed, and the former law  
4 is continued in effect for that purpose.

5 SECTION 16. Not later than January 1, 2008, the Texas Water  
6 Development Board and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality  
7 jointly shall adopt rules as required by Section 16.402(e), Water  
8 Code, as added by this Act.

9 SECTION 17. Not later than June 1, 2008, the Texas  
10 Commission on Environmental Quality shall adopt standards as  
11 required by Section 1903.053, Occupations Code, as amended by this  
12 Act, to take effect January 1, 2009.

13 SECTION 18. This Act takes effect immediately if it  
14 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each  
15 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.  
16 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate  
17 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.