

By: Rodríguez

S.B. No. 515

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study by the Texas Water Development Board and the
3 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding the effects of
4 the construction of a border wall on storm drainage and other
5 environmental matters in this state.

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

7 SECTION 1. (a) In this section:

8 (1) "Board" means the Texas Water Development Board.

9 (2) "Border wall" means a wall, fence, or other
10 barrier on the border between the United States and Mexico.

11 (3) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on
12 Environmental Quality.

13 (b) The board and the commission jointly shall:

14 (1) conduct a study concerning the effects the
15 construction of a border wall would have on storm drainage, water
16 quality, and environmental contamination matters in this state; and

17 (2) develop recommendations for actions that may
18 prevent or mitigate any negative effects on storm drainage, water
19 quality, or environmental contamination matters resulting from the
20 construction of a border wall.

21 (c) The study must investigate:

22 (1) whether and to what extent the construction of a
23 border wall would cause or contribute to flood management or other
24 storm drainage problems in this state;

1 (2) whether and to what extent the construction of a
2 border wall would cause or contribute to negative environmental
3 contamination or other environmental effects in this state;

4 (3) whether certain designs or methods of construction
5 of a border wall would prevent or mitigate any negative effects
6 identified under Subdivisions (1) or (2) of this subsection;

7 (4) any economic effects expected to result from any
8 negative effects identified under Subdivision (1) or (2) of this
9 subsection; and

10 (5) what actions by the state would best prevent or
11 mitigate any negative effects identified under Subdivision (1) or
12 (2) of this subsection, including any potential legal actions
13 against the federal government to stop the construction or alter
14 the design of a border wall.

15 (d) Not later than March 1, 2020, the board and the
16 commission shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,
17 and each standing committee of the legislature having primary
18 jurisdiction over water development and environmental matters:

19 (1) a report of the findings of the study conducted
20 under this section; and

21 (2) recommendations for actions that may prevent or
22 mitigate any negative storm drainage, water quality, or
23 environmental contamination effects resulting from the
24 construction of a border wall, including any potential legal
25 actions against the federal government to stop the construction or
26 alter the design of a border wall.

27 (e) This section expires January 1, 2021.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.