

1-1 By: Hughes S.B. No. 699
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 22, 2021; March 11, 2021,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Water, Agriculture &
 1-4 Rural Affairs; April 26, 2021, reported favorably by the following
 1-5 vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; April 26, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16			X	

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to a study of the conversion of surface mine pits and
 1-20 quarries to water storage reservoirs in order to enhance this
 1-21 state's available water supply.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. (a) The legislature shall establish a joint
 1-24 interim committee to study the conversion of surface mine pits and
 1-25 quarries to water storage reservoirs in order to enhance this
 1-26 state's available water supply.

1-27 (b) The joint interim committee is composed of:

1-28 (1) members of the Senate Natural Resources and
 1-29 Economic Development Committee appointed by the lieutenant
 1-30 governor;

1-31 (2) members of the Senate Water, Agriculture and Rural
 1-32 Affairs Committee appointed by the lieutenant governor;

1-33 (3) members of the House Natural Resources Committee
 1-34 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and

1-35 (4) members of the House Energy Resources Committee
 1-36 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

1-37 (c) The lieutenant governor or the speaker of the house of
 1-38 representatives, as applicable, may not appoint more than three
 1-39 members from a committee described by Subsection (b) of this
 1-40 section to the joint interim committee.

1-41 (d) The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
 1-42 representatives shall jointly designate a chair or, alternatively,
 1-43 designate two co-chairs from among the committee membership.

1-44 (e) The committee may adopt rules as necessary to carry out
 1-45 the committee's duties under this Act.

1-46 (f) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the
 1-47 Railroad Commission of Texas, and the Texas Water Development Board
 1-48 shall provide administrative support and resources to the
 1-49 committee.

1-50 (g) Not later than December 1, 2022, the committee shall
 1-51 prepare and deliver a report to the governor and the legislature
 1-52 that:

1-53 (1) provides an overview of:

1-54 (A) the lignite industry in this state and final
 1-55 reclamation practices of that industry; and

1-56 (B) large sand and gravel producers in this
 1-57 state;

1-58 (2) identifies surface mine pits and quarries that
 1-59 could potentially be used as water storage reservoirs and provides
 1-60 the following information for each location:

1-61 (A) the volume of water that could be stored at

2-1 the location;
2-2 (B) the predicted water quality of a reservoir
2-3 created at the location;
2-4 (C) the predicted effect on watersheds
2-5 surrounding a reservoir created at the location;
2-6 (D) the sustainability of a reservoir created at
2-7 the location;
2-8 (E) the reclamation status of the location;
2-9 (F) information needed to assess ownership
2-10 issues at the location, including any constraint that the ownership
2-11 of the property may impose on the use of the property as a
2-12 reservoir; and
2-13 (G) a comparison of the estimated cost of
2-14 converting the location into a reservoir and the estimated cost of
2-15 filling in and regrading the location to the approximate original
2-16 contour;
2-17 (3) contains a map of the locations identified under
2-18 Subdivision (2) of this subsection;
2-19 (4) provides a review of the regulatory issues and
2-20 constraints associated with converting surface mine pits and
2-21 quarries into reservoirs; and
2-22 (5) summarizes the effect that a statewide initiative
2-23 to convert surface mine pits and quarries into reservoirs would
2-24 have on state water resources.
2-25 (h) The committee is abolished and this Act expires January
2-26 10, 2023.
2-27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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