

1-1 By: Kitzman (Senate Sponsor - Blanco) H.B. No. 1520
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 5, 2025;
1-3 May 5, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Local
1-4 Government; May 13, 2025, reported favorably by the following
1-5 vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 13, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

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

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the Angelina and Neches River Authority, following
1-18 recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission; specifying
1-19 grounds for the removal of a member of the board of directors.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Section 8501.0015(a), Special District Local
1-22 Laws Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-23 (a) The authority is subject to review under Chapter 325,
1-24 Government Code (Texas Sunset Act), but may not be abolished under
1-25 that chapter. The review shall be conducted under Section 325.025,
1-26 Government Code, as if the authority were a state agency scheduled
1-27 to be abolished September 1, 2037 [2025], and every 12th year after
1-28 that year.

1-29 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 8501, Special District
1-30 Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Section 8501.1011 to read as
1-31 follows:

1-32 Sec. 8501.1011. TRAINING REQUIRED FOR BOARD MEMBERS. (a) A
1-33 person who is appointed to and qualifies for office as a director
1-34 may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a director in attendance
1-35 at a meeting of the board until the person completes a training
1-36 program that complies with this section.

1-37 (b) The training program must provide the person with
1-38 information regarding:

1-39 (1) the law governing authority operations;

1-40 (2) the programs, functions, rules, and budget of the
1-41 authority;

1-42 (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking
1-43 authority of the board;

1-44 (4) the results of the most recent formal audit of the
1-45 authority;

1-46 (5) the requirements of:

1-47 (A) laws relating to open meetings, public
1-48 information, administrative procedure, and disclosing conflicts of
1-49 interest; and

1-50 (B) other laws applicable to members of the
1-51 governing body of a river authority in performing their duties; and

1-52 (6) any applicable ethics policies adopted by the
1-53 authority or the Texas Ethics Commission.

1-54 (c) A person appointed to the board is entitled to
1-55 reimbursement for the travel expenses incurred in attending the
1-56 training program regardless of whether the attendance at the
1-57 program occurs before or after the person qualifies for office.

1-58 (d) The general manager of the authority shall create a
1-59 training manual that includes the information required by
1-60 Subsection (b). The general manager shall distribute a copy of the
1-61 training manual annually to each director. Each director shall

sign and submit to the general manager a statement acknowledging that the director received and has reviewed the training manual.

SECTION 3. Section 8501.102, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 8501.102. TERMS. Directors are appointed for staggered terms of four [~~six~~] years with four or five [~~one-third~~] of the directors' terms expiring every two years as appropriate.

SECTION 4. Sections 8501.107(a) and (c), Special District Local Laws Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) The governor [~~board~~] shall designate [~~elect~~] one of the directors as president of the board to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of the governor. The board shall elect [7] one director as vice president [7] and one as secretary-treasurer.

(c) The vice president shall act as president if the president is absent or unable to act [~~disabled~~].

SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 8501, Special District Local Laws Code, is amended by adding Sections 8501.1071, 8501.1081, 8501.1082, 8501.1083, and 8501.114 to read as follows:

Sec. 8501.1071. REMOVAL OF DIRECTOR. (a) It is a ground for removal from the board that a director:

(1) does not have at the time of taking office the qualifications required by Section 8501.101;

(2) does not maintain during service on the board the qualifications required by Section 8501.101;

(3) violates Chapter 171, Local Government Code;

(4) cannot, because of illness or disability, discharge the director's duties for a substantial part of the director's term; or

(5) is absent from more than half of the regularly scheduled board meetings that the director is eligible to attend during a calendar year without an excuse approved by a majority vote of the board.

(b) The validity of an action of the board is not affected by the fact that it is taken when a ground for removal of a director exists.

(c) If the general manager has knowledge that a potential ground for removal exists, the general manager shall notify the president of the board of the potential ground. The president of the board shall then notify the governor and the attorney general that a potential ground for removal exists. If the potential ground for removal involves the president of the board, the general manager shall notify the next highest ranking director, who shall then notify the governor and the attorney general that a potential ground for removal exists.

Sec. 8501.1081. PUBLIC TESTIMONY. The board shall develop and implement policies that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear before the board and to speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of the authority.

Sec. 8501.1082. GENERAL MANAGER. The board shall employ a general manager.

Sec. 8501.1083. SEPARATION OF POLICY-MAKING AND STAFF FUNCTIONS. The board shall develop and implement policies that clearly separate the policy-making responsibilities of the board and the management responsibilities of the general manager and the employees of the authority.

Sec. 8501.114. COMPLAINT SYSTEM. (a) The authority shall maintain a system to promptly and efficiently act on complaints filed with the authority. The authority shall maintain information about parties to the complaint, the subject matter of the complaint, a summary of the results of the review or investigation of the complaint, and the disposition of the complaint.

(b) The authority shall make information available describing its procedures for complaint investigation and resolution.

(c) The authority shall periodically notify the complaint parties of the status of the complaint until final disposition, unless the notice would jeopardize an investigation.

SECTION 6. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this section, Section 8501.1011, Special District Local Laws Code, as

added by this Act, applies to a member of the board of directors of the Angelina and Neches River Authority appointed before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

(b) Notwithstanding Section 8501.1011, Special District Local Laws Code, as added by this Act, a member of the board of directors of the Angelina and Neches River Authority may vote, deliberate, and be counted as a director in attendance at a meeting of the board until December 1, 2025. A member of the board may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a director in attendance at a meeting of the board held on or after December 1, 2025, until the member completes the training required by that section.

SECTION 7. (a) Notwithstanding the changes in law made by this Act in Section 8501.102, Special District Local Laws Code, and except as provided by Subsection (c) of this section, a director of the Angelina and Neches River Authority serving on the effective date of this Act shall continue in office until the director's successor is appointed and qualifies for office.

(b) A director of the Angelina and Neches River Authority appointed to succeed a director whose term expires after the effective date of this Act serves a four-year term.

(c) At the first meeting of the board of directors of the Angelina and Neches River Authority that follows the effective date of this Act, the three directors whose terms expire September 5, 2029, shall draw lots to determine which of those directors will serve a term that expires September 5, 2027.

SECTION 8. (a) The legal notice of the intention to introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies, officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313, Government Code.

(b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives within the required time.

(d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled and accomplished.

SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

* * * * *