

1-1 By: Kitzman (Senate Sponsor - Parker) H.B. No. 1535  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2025;  
 1-3 May 8, 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

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Bettencourt	X			
1-8 Middleton	X			
1-9 Cook	X			
1-10 Gutierrez			X	
1-11 Nichols	X			
1-12 Paxton	X			
1-13 West	X			

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

1-17 relating to the Trinity River Authority of Texas, 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 1A(a), Chapter 518, Acts of the 54th  
 1-22 Legislature, Regular Session, 1955, 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. Section 3(b), Chapter 518, Acts of the 54th  
 1-30 Legislature, Regular Session, 1955, is amended to read as follows:

1-31 (b) The Board shall consist of twenty-five (25)  
 1-32 [~~twenty-four~~ (24)] directors to be appointed by the Governor with  
 1-33 the advice and consent of the Senate, and, when the Legislature is  
 1-34 in session, no such appointment shall become effective until it  
 1-35 shall have been approved by the Senate. For the purposes of the  
 1-36 appointment of directors the Authority is divided into eighteen  
 1-37 (18) areas, numbered 1 to 18, both inclusive, respectively  
 1-38 containing the county as follows:

- 1-39 Area 1. Tarrant
- 1-40 Area 2. Dallas
- 1-41 Area 3. Kaufman
- 1-42 Area 4. Henderson
- 1-43 Area 5. Ellis
- 1-44 Area 6. Navarro
- 1-45 Area 7. Anderson
- 1-46 Area 8. Freestone
- 1-47 Area 9. Leon
- 1-48 Area 10. Houston
- 1-49 Area 11. Trinity
- 1-50 Area 12. Madison
- 1-51 Area 13. Walker
- 1-52 Area 14. San Jacinto
- 1-53 Area 15. Polk
- 1-54 Area 16. Liberty
- 1-55 Area 17. Chambers
- 1-56 Area 18. All of the territory contained within the above

1-57 named seventeen (17) areas and seventeen (17) counties which shall  
 1-58 be known as "The Area-at-Large." Three (3) directors shall be  
 1-59 appointed from Tarrant County; four (4) directors shall be  
 1-60 appointed from Dallas County; and three (3) [~~two~~ (2)] directors  
 1-61 shall be appointed from "The Area-at-Large." One (1) director

2-1 shall be appointed from each of the other named Areas. The term of  
 2-2 each director shall be for four [~~six (6)~~] years and until the  
 2-3 director's [~~his~~] successor has [~~shall have~~] been appointed and  
 2-4 qualifies [~~until he shall have qualified, except that of the~~  
 2-5 ~~directors first appointed, eight (8) shall serve for two (2) years,~~  
 2-6 ~~eight (8) for four (4) years, and eight (8) for six (6) years]~~. The  
 2-7 terms of 12 or 13 of the directors shall expire on the 15th day of  
 2-8 March of odd-numbered years [~~the year in which their respective~~  
 2-9 ~~terms would terminate under the provisions of this Act]~~. [~~In making~~  
 2-10 ~~the original appointments the Governor will designate the initial~~  
 2-11 ~~term of each such directors.] The Board has power to appoint an  
 2-12 executive committee which will perform the functions of the Board  
 2-13 between meetings, except as its powers may be restricted in the  
 2-14 action setting up the committee.~~

2-15 SECTION 3. Section 4, Chapter 518, Acts of the 54th  
 2-16 Legislature, Regular Session, 1955, is amended to read as follows:

2-17 Sec. 4. The Governor shall designate a member of the Board  
 2-18 as the president of the Authority to serve in that capacity at the  
 2-19 pleasure of the Governor. The Board shall elect from its number a  
 2-20 [~~president and a~~] vice-president of the Authority and such other  
 2-21 officers as in the judgment of the Board are necessary. The  
 2-22 president shall preside at meetings of the Board and shall be the  
 2-23 chief officer of the Authority and shall have the same right to vote  
 2-24 as any other director. The vice-president shall perform all duties  
 2-25 and exercise all powers conferred by this Act upon the president  
 2-26 when the president is absent or fails or is unable or declines to  
 2-27 act. The Board shall appoint a secretary and a treasurer who shall  
 2-28 not be members of the Board. Within the discretion of the Board the  
 2-29 officers of secretary and treasurer may be held by one (1) person  
 2-30 whose title shall be Secretary-Treasurer. The Treasurer shall give  
 2-31 bond in such amount as shall be prescribed by the Board. The Board  
 2-32 shall [~~may~~] appoint a general manager and may appoint [~~r~~] all  
 2-33 necessary engineers, attorneys and other employees.

2-34 SECTION 4. Chapter 518, Acts of the 54th Legislature,  
 2-35 Regular Session, 1955, is amended by adding Sections 4A, 4B, 4C, 4D,  
 2-36 and 4E to read as follows:

2-37 Sec. 4A. (a) It is a ground for removal from the Board that  
 2-38 a director:

2-39 (1) does not have at the time of taking office the  
 2-40 qualifications required by Section 3(c) of this Act;

2-41 (2) does not maintain during service on the Board the  
 2-42 qualifications required by Section 3(c) of this Act;

2-43 (3) violates Chapter 171, Local Government Code;

2-44 (4) cannot, because of illness or disability,  
 2-45 discharge the director's duties for a substantial part of the  
 2-46 director's term; or

2-47 (5) is absent from more than half of the regularly  
 2-48 scheduled Board meetings that the director is eligible to attend  
 2-49 during a calendar year without an excuse approved by a majority vote  
 2-50 of the Board.

2-51 (b) The validity of an action of the Board is not affected by  
 2-52 the fact that it is taken when a ground for removal of a director  
 2-53 exists.

2-54 (c) If the general manager of the Authority has knowledge  
 2-55 that a potential ground for removal exists, the general manager  
 2-56 shall notify the president of the Authority of the potential  
 2-57 ground. The president shall then notify the Governor and the  
 2-58 Attorney General that a potential ground for removal exists. If the  
 2-59 potential ground for removal involves the president, the general  
 2-60 manager shall notify the next highest ranking director, who shall  
 2-61 then notify the Governor and the Attorney General that a potential  
 2-62 ground for removal exists.

2-63 Sec. 4B. (a) A person who is appointed to and qualifies for  
 2-64 office as a director may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a  
 2-65 director in attendance at a meeting of the Board until the person  
 2-66 completes a training program that complies with this section.

2-67 (b) The training program must provide the person with  
 2-68 information regarding:

2-69 (1) the law governing Authority operations;

3-1                   (2) the programs, functions, rules, and budget of the  
3-2 Authority;  
3-3                   (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking  
3-4 authority of the Board;  
3-5                   (4) the results of the most recent formal audit of the  
3-6 Authority;  
3-7                   (5) the requirements of:  
3-8                   (A) laws relating to open meetings, public  
3-9 information, administrative procedure, and disclosing conflicts of  
3-10 interest; and  
3-11                   (B) other laws applicable to members of the  
3-12 governing body of a river authority in performing their duties; and  
3-13                   (6) any applicable ethics policies adopted by the  
3-14 Authority or the Texas Ethics Commission.  
3-15                   (c) A person appointed to the Board is entitled to  
3-16 reimbursement for the travel expenses incurred in attending the  
3-17 training program regardless of whether the attendance at the  
3-18 program occurs before or after the person qualifies for office.  
3-19                   (d) The general manager of the Authority shall create a  
3-20 training manual that includes the information required by  
3-21 Subsection (b) of this section. The general manager shall  
3-22 distribute a copy of the training manual annually to each director.  
3-23 Each director shall sign and submit to the general manager a  
3-24 statement acknowledging that the director received and has reviewed  
3-25 the training manual.  
3-26                   Sec. 4C. (a) The Authority shall maintain a system to  
3-27 promptly and efficiently act on complaints filed with the  
3-28 Authority. The Authority shall maintain information about parties  
3-29 to the complaint, the subject matter of the complaint, a summary of  
3-30 the results of the review or investigation of the complaint, and its  
3-31 disposition.  
3-32                   (b) The Authority shall make information available  
3-33 describing its procedures for complaint investigation and  
3-34 resolution.  
3-35                   (c) The Authority shall periodically notify the complaint  
3-36 parties of the status of the complaint until final disposition,  
3-37 unless the notice would jeopardize an investigation.  
3-38                   Sec. 4D. The Board shall develop and implement policies  
3-39 that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to appear  
3-40 before the Board and to speak on any issue under the jurisdiction of  
3-41 the Authority.  
3-42                   Sec. 4E. The Board shall develop and implement policies  
3-43 that clearly separate the policy-making responsibilities of the  
3-44 Board and the management responsibilities of the general manager  
3-45 and the employees of the Authority.  
3-46                   SECTION 5. (a) Notwithstanding the changes in law made by  
3-47 this Act in Section 3(b), Chapter 518, Acts of the 54th Legislature,  
3-48 Regular Session, 1955, and except as provided by Subsection (b) of  
3-49 this section, a director of the Trinity River Authority of Texas  
3-50 serving on the effective date of this Act shall continue in office  
3-51 until the member's successor is appointed and qualifies for office.  
3-52                   (b) At the first meeting of the board of directors of the  
3-53 Trinity River Authority of Texas that follows the effective date of  
3-54 this Act, the nine directors of the Trinity River Authority of Texas  
3-55 whose terms would expire on March 15, 2031, shall draw lots to  
3-56 determine which five directors will serve terms that expire on  
3-57 March 15, 2029, and which four directors will serve terms that  
3-58 expire on March 15, 2027.  
3-59                   SECTION 6. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this  
3-60 section, Section 4B, Chapter 518, Acts of the 54th Legislature,  
3-61 Regular Session, 1955, as added by this Act, applies to a member of  
3-62 the board of directors of the Trinity River Authority of Texas  
3-63 appointed before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.  
3-64                   (b) Notwithstanding Section 4B, Chapter 518, Acts of the  
3-65 54th Legislature, Regular Session, 1955, as added by this Act, a  
3-66 member of the board of directors of the Trinity River Authority of  
3-67 Texas may vote, deliberate, and be counted as a director in  
3-68 attendance at a meeting of the board until December 1, 2025. A  
3-69 member of the board may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a

4-1 member in attendance at a meeting of the board held on or after  
4-2 December 1, 2025, until the member completes the training required  
4-3 by that section.

4-4 SECTION 7. (a) The legal notice of the intention to  
4-5 introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this  
4-6 Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a  
4-7 copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies,  
4-8 officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished  
4-9 under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313,  
4-10 Government Code.

4-11 (b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has  
4-12 submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on  
4-13 Environmental Quality.

4-14 (c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed  
4-15 its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the  
4-16 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of  
4-17 representatives within the required time.

4-18 (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this  
4-19 state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect  
4-20 to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled  
4-21 and accomplished.

4-22 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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