

1-1 By: Gerdes (Senate Sponsor - Kolckhorst) H.B. No. 1633
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2025;
 1-3 April 28, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Water,
 1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 13, 2025, reported favorably by
 1-5 the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 13, 2025, 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 the criteria considered by groundwater conservation
 1-20 districts before granting or denying a permit or permit amendment.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Section 36.113(d), Water Code, is amended to
 1-23 read as follows:

1-24 (d) This subsection does not apply to the renewal of an
 1-25 operating permit issued under Section 36.1145. Before granting or
 1-26 denying a permit, or a permit amendment issued in accordance with
 1-27 Section 36.1146, the district shall consider whether:

1-28 (1) the application conforms to the requirements
 1-29 prescribed by this chapter and is accompanied by the prescribed
 1-30 fees;

1-31 (2) the proposed use of water unreasonably affects:

1-32 (A) existing groundwater and surface water
 1-33 resources; ~~or~~

1-34 (B) existing permit holders; or

1-35 (C) wells that are registered with the district
 1-36 and exempt from the requirement to obtain a permit under this
 1-37 chapter or district rules;

1-38 (3) the proposed use of water is dedicated to any
 1-39 beneficial use;

1-40 (4) the proposed use of water is consistent with the
 1-41 district's approved management plan;

1-42 (5) if the well will be located in the Hill Country
 1-43 Priority Groundwater Management Area, the proposed use of water
 1-44 from the well is wholly or partly to provide water to a pond, lake,
 1-45 or reservoir to enhance the appearance of the landscape;

1-46 (6) the applicant has agreed to avoid waste and
 1-47 achieve water conservation; and

1-48 (7) the applicant has agreed that reasonable diligence
 1-49 will be used to protect groundwater quality and that the applicant
 1-50 will follow well plugging guidelines at the time of well closure.

1-51 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-52 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-53 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-54 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 1-55 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

1-56 * * * * *