

1-1 By: Romero, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Johnson) H.B. No. 4530
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2025;
 1-3 May 9, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Water,
 1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 23, 2025, reported favorably by
 1-5 the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0; May 23, 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 dedication and management of water rights placed in
 1-20 the Texas Water Trust.

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

1-22 SECTION 1. Sections 12.028(b) and (c), Parks and Wildlife
 1-23 Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-24 (b) Consistent with Section 11.0235(b), Water Code, and the
 1-25 department's duties and responsibilities, the department shall
 1-26 encourage and facilitate the dedication of surface water rights in
 1-27 the Texas Water Trust through lease, donation, purchase, or other
 1-28 means of voluntary transfer for environmental needs, including for
 1-29 the purpose of maintaining or improving:

- 1-30 (1) instream flows;
- 1-31 (2) water quality;
- 1-32 (3) fish and wildlife habitat; and
- 1-33 (4) bay and estuary inflows.

1-34 (c) The department may manage surface water rights in the
 1-35 Texas Water Trust in a manner that is consistent with:

- 1-36 (1) the manner in which a holder of the rights may
 1-37 manage the rights;
- 1-38 (2) the dedication of the rights, including the
 1-39 dedication's terms and conditions;
- 1-40 (3) Sections 11.0237, 11.027, and 11.122, Water Code;
- 1-41 and
- 1-42 (4) maximizing environmental benefits.

1-43 SECTION 2. Section 15.7031, Water Code, is amended by
 1-44 amending Subsections (c) and (e) and adding Subsection (c-1) to
 1-45 read as follows:

1-46 (c) The dedication of any surface water rights placed in
 1-47 trust must be reviewed and approved by the commission, in
 1-48 consultation with the board and the Parks and Wildlife Department.
 1-49 In addition, the Department of Agriculture may provide input to the
 1-50 commission, as appropriate, during the review and approval process
 1-51 for the dedication of surface water rights.

1-52 (c-1) The dedication of any groundwater rights placed in
 1-53 trust must be reviewed and approved by the board. The board must
 1-54 provide notice of the dedication to any district or authority that:

- 1-55 (1) was created under Section 52, Article III, or
 1-56 Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution; and
- 1-57 (2) has the authority to regulate the spacing of or
 1-58 production from water wells located in the aquifer, subdivision of
 1-59 the aquifer, or geologic stratum in which the groundwater that is
 1-60 the subject of the groundwater rights is located.

1-61 (e) The Parks and Wildlife Department may manage surface

2-1 water rights in the trust:

2-2 (1) under a voluntary agreement with a rights holder;

2-3 and

2-4 (2) in the manner described by Section [12.028\(c\)](#),

2-5 Parks and Wildlife Code.

2-6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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