

1-1 By: Paxton, et al. S.B. No. 2406
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 24, 2025; March 25, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Local Government;
1-4 April 1, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-5 Nays 0; April 1, 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 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the Sabine 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 2A(a), Chapter 110, Acts of the 51st
1-22 Legislature, Regular Session, 1949, is amended to read as follows:

1-23 (a) The district 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 district were a state agency scheduled to
1-27 be abolished September 1, 2037 [~~2025~~], and every 12th year after
1-28 that year.

1-29 SECTION 2. Section 4, Chapter 110, Acts of the 51st
1-30 Legislature, Regular Session, 1949, is amended to read as follows:

1-31 Sec. 4. The Governor shall designate a Director as the
1-32 President of the Board to serve in that capacity at the pleasure of
1-33 the Governor. The Directors of the district shall organize by
1-34 electing one of their members [~~President, one~~] Vice-President, one
1-35 Secretary, and a Secretary pro tem. Five (5) Directors shall
1-36 constitute a quorum at any meeting, and a concurrence of a majority
1-37 of those present shall be sufficient in all matters pertaining to
1-38 the business of the district, except the letting of construction
1-39 contracts and the authorization of issuance of bonds, which shall
1-40 require the concurrence of five (5) Directors. Warrants for the
1-41 payment of money may be drawn and signed by two (2) officers or
1-42 employees designated by resolution entered on the minutes of the
1-43 Directors, when such accounts have been contracted and ordered paid
1-44 by the Board of Directors.

1-45 SECTION 3. Chapter 110, Acts of the 51st Legislature,
1-46 Regular Session, 1949, is amended by adding Sections 4A, 4B, 6A, and
1-47 6B to read as follows:

1-48 Sec. 4A. (a) It is a ground for removal from the Board of
1-49 Directors that a Director:

1-50 (1) does not have at the time of taking office the
1-51 qualifications required by Section 3 of this Act;

1-52 (2) does not maintain during service on the Board the
1-53 qualifications required by Section 3 of this Act;

1-54 (3) violates Chapter 171, Local Government Code;

1-55 (4) cannot, because of illness or disability,
1-56 discharge the Director's duties for a substantial part of the
1-57 Director's term; or

1-58 (5) is absent from more than half of the regularly
1-59 scheduled Board meetings that the Director is eligible to attend
1-60 during a calendar year without an excuse approved by a majority vote
1-61 of the Board.

2-1 (b) The validity of an action of the Board is not affected by
 2-2 the fact that it is taken when a ground for removal of a Director
 2-3 exists.

2-4 (c) If the manager of the district has knowledge that a
 2-5 potential ground for removal exists, the manager shall notify the
 2-6 President of the Board of the potential ground. The President shall
 2-7 then notify the Governor and the Attorney General that a potential
 2-8 ground for removal exists. If the potential ground for removal
 2-9 involves the President, the manager shall notify the next highest
 2-10 ranking Director, who shall then notify the Governor and the
 2-11 Attorney General that a potential ground for removal exists.

2-12 Sec. 4B. (a) A person who is appointed to and qualifies for
 2-13 office as a Director may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a
 2-14 Director in attendance at a meeting of the Board of Directors until
 2-15 the person completes a training program that complies with this
 2-16 section.

2-17 (b) The training program must provide the person with
 2-18 information regarding:

2-19 (1) the law governing district operations;
 2-20 (2) the programs, functions, rules, and budget of the
 2-21 district;

2-22 (3) the scope of and limitations on the rulemaking
 2-23 authority of the Board of Directors;

2-24 (4) the results of the most recent formal audit of the
 2-25 district;

2-26 (5) the requirements of:
 2-27 (A) laws relating to open meetings, public
 2-28 information, administrative procedure, and disclosing conflicts of
 2-29 interest; and

2-30 (B) other laws applicable to members of the
 2-31 governing body of a river authority in performing their duties; and

2-32 (6) any applicable ethics policies adopted by the
 2-33 district or the Texas Ethics Commission.

2-34 (c) A person appointed to the Board of Directors is entitled
 2-35 to reimbursement for the travel expenses incurred in attending the
 2-36 training program regardless of whether the attendance at the
 2-37 program occurs before or after the person qualifies for office.

2-38 (d) The manager of the district shall create a training
 2-39 manual that includes the information required by Subsection (b) of
 2-40 this section. The manager shall distribute a copy of the training
 2-41 manual annually to each Director. Each Director shall sign and
 2-42 submit to the manager a statement acknowledging that the Director
 2-43 received and has reviewed the training manual.

2-44 Sec. 6A. (a) The district shall maintain a system to
 2-45 promptly and efficiently act on complaints filed with the district.
 2-46 The district shall maintain information about parties to the
 2-47 complaint, the subject matter of the complaint, a summary of the
 2-48 results of the review or investigation of the complaint, and its
 2-49 disposition.

2-50 (b) The district shall make information available
 2-51 describing its procedures for complaint investigation and
 2-52 resolution.

2-53 (c) The district shall periodically notify the complaint
 2-54 parties of the status of the complaint until final disposition,
 2-55 unless the notice would jeopardize an investigation.

2-56 Sec. 6B. The Board of Directors shall develop and implement
 2-57 policies that provide the public with a reasonable opportunity to
 2-58 appear before the Board and to speak on any issue under the
 2-59 jurisdiction of the district.

2-60 SECTION 4. Section 10, Chapter 110, Acts of the 51st
 2-61 Legislature, Regular Session, 1949, is amended to read as follows:

2-62 Sec. 10. The Directors shall ~~may~~ employ a manager for the
 2-63 district, and may give the manager ~~him~~ full authority in the
 2-64 management and operation of the district affairs (subject only to
 2-65 the orders of the Board of Directors). Compensation to be paid such
 2-66 manager and all employees shall be fixed by the Board of Directors
 2-67 and all employees may be removed by the Board.

2-68 SECTION 5. Chapter 110, Acts of the 51st Legislature,
 2-69 Regular Session, 1949, is amended by adding Section 10A to read as

3-1 follows:

3-2 Sec. 10A. The Board of Directors shall develop and
3-3 implement policies that clearly separate the policy-making
3-4 responsibilities of the Board and the management responsibilities
3-5 of the manager and the employees of the district.

3-6 SECTION 6. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of
3-7 this section, Section 4B, Chapter 110, Acts of the 51st
3-8 Legislature, Regular Session, 1949, as added by this Act, applies
3-9 to a member of the board of directors of the Sabine River Authority
3-10 of Texas appointed before, on, or after the effective date of this
3-11 Act.

3-12 (b) Notwithstanding Section 4B, Chapter 110, Acts of the
3-13 51st Legislature, Regular Session, 1949, as added by this Act, a
3-14 person serving on the board of directors of the Sabine River
3-15 Authority of Texas may vote, deliberate, and be counted as a
3-16 director in attendance at a meeting of the board until December 1,
3-17 2025. A director may not vote, deliberate, or be counted as a member
3-18 in attendance at a meeting of the board held on or after December 1,
3-19 2025, until the member completes the training required by that
3-20 section.

3-21 SECTION 7. (a) The legal notice of the intention to
3-22 introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this
3-23 Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a
3-24 copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies,
3-25 officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished
3-26 under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313,
3-27 Government Code.

3-28 (b) The governor, one of the required recipients, has
3-29 submitted the notice and Act to the Texas Commission on
3-30 Environmental Quality.

3-31 (c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed
3-32 its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor, the
3-33 lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of
3-34 representatives within the required time.

3-35 (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this
3-36 state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect
3-37 to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled
3-38 and accomplished.

3-39 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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