



## 2013 Legislative Cheat Sheet

### Groundwater Bills

**HB 1563:** increases maximum fees off office for a GCD Board Member from \$150/day to \$250/day (annual cap still \$9,000)

**SB 1282:** Extends the deadline for proposing the next round of desired future conditions to May 1, 2016

### New Groundwater Conservation Districts

**SB 1835:** Extends the deadline for the confirmation election for the Calhoun County GCD to December 31, 2016; authorizes a tax, subject to voter approval

**SB 980:** Creates the Reeves County GCD and authorizes a tax, subject to voter approval before December 31, 2018

**SB 1840:** Creates the Deep East Texas GCD (Shelby, San Augustine, and Sabine Counties) and authorizes a tax, subject to voter approval before September 1, 2015

### Local GCD Bills

**HB 839:** Duval County GCD

**HB 3903:** Hays Trinity GCD

**SB 168:** Central Texas GCD

**SB 1012:** McMullen GCD

### State Water Plan Financing

#### **HB 4:**

- Creates two funds, (SWIF and SWIRF)
- Changes TWDB structure (Board changes from 6 part-time, appointed members to 3 full-time, appointed members)
- Requires that 20% of the fund money go to conservation and reuse and 10% go to rural areas or agricultural water conservation
- Requires prioritization of State Water Plan projects

**HB 1025:** Appropriates \$2 billion from Rainy Day Fund for SWIF and SWIRF

**SJR 1:** Constitutional amendment to approve HB 4 and HB 1025

### **Water Conservation/General Water**

#### **SB 1:** Appropriations for Water Conservation

- \$1 million in FY 2014 for water conservation grants
- \$1.8 million/year in FYs 2014 and 2015 to TAWC for Ogallala demonstration project
- \$1.5 million/year in FYs 2014 and 2015 to GCDs for agricultural water conservation (GCD must require meters; funds offset 50% of meter costs)

**HB 857:** Requires retail public utilities serving more than 3,300 connections *or* receiving financial assistance from TWDB to conduct an annual water loss audit (other retail public utilities are still on a 5 year schedule)

**HB 1461:** Requires retail public utilities to provide notification of water loss to customers

**HB 3604:** Requires utilities to implement water conservation plans *and* drought contingency plans when a disaster emergency is declared due to drought

**HB 3605:** Requires TWDB to review a utilities' compliance with its water conservation plan when considering financial assistance applications from retail public utilities serving more than 3,300 customers

**SB 654:** Clarifies that a municipality may bring a civil action for enforcement of ordinance relating to water conservation

**SB 198:** Prohibits a homeowner's association from prohibiting xeriscaping, but does allow the HOA to pre-approve the plans

**HB 2781:** Provides specifications for rainwater harvesting systems

**HB 252:** Requires retail public utilities to notify TCEQ when they reasonably believe less than 180 days of water is available

**HB 1973:** A municipality may adopt TCEQ fire flow standards for an investor-owned utility of water supply corporation providing service in city/ETJ

**SB 662:** Adds representatives of the Public Utility Commission of Texas and ERCOT to the Drought Preparedness Council

### **Open Meetings/Open Records**

**HB 2414:** Provides specifications for general videoconference meetings

**SB 293:** Authorizes a "water district" covering 3 or more counties to hold a meeting via telephone or videoconference if it is a special called meeting, immediate action is required, and a quorum would be difficult to obtain

**SB 471:** Authorizes the use of electronic recorders at open meetings

**SB 984:** Provides specifications for videoconference meetings when the government entity is statewide or covers three or more counties

**SB 1297:** Allows public officials to communicate between meetings on internet message boards maintained by the governmental body and visible to public

**SB 983:** Provides for an “in camera” review of information at issue in a public information lawsuit

**SB 1368:** Defines public information as it relates to contracts between non-government entities and government entities