HOUSE
RESEARCH
ORGANIZATION bill digest                  5/21/2013

SB 199
Watson (Anchia)
(CSSB 199 by Cook)

SUBJECT:         Annual reporting of water use by electric generating facilities.

COMMITTEE:       State Affairs — committee substitute recommended

VOTE:            9 ayes —  Cook, Giddings, Craddick, Farrar, Frullo, Geren, Harless, Huberty, Sylvester Turner

                 0 nays

                 4 absent —  Hilderbran, Menéndez, Oliveira, Smithee

SENATE VOTE:     On final passage, April 18 — 30-0

WITNESSES:       For — John W. Fainter Jr., Association of Electric Companies of Texas, Inc.; (*Registered but did not testify*: Gary Gibbs, American Electric Power Company; Chloe Lieberknecht, The Nature Conservancy; Luke Metzger, Environment Texas; Cyrus Reed, Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club; Faye Rozmaryn, League of Women Voters-Texas; Russel Smith, Texas Renewable Energy Industries Association; Tom "Smitty" Smith, Public Citizen; David Weinberg, Texas League of Conservation Voters)

                 Against — None

                 On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Carolyn Brittin, Texas Water Development Board; Ron Ellis, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality)

BACKGROUND:      The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) gathers water use data from power generators as part of its annual water use survey authorized under Water Code, sec. 16.012(m). According to the TWDB, steam-electric power generators report using 448,681 acre-feet of water in 2010, which comprises 44,360 acre-feet of groundwater and 404,321 acre-feet of surface water.

DIGEST:          CSSB 199 would add Water Code, sec. 16.405 to require that electric generating facilities report to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and TWDB on or before May 15 of each year an

evaluation of their water needs. The bill would require the report to contain an evaluation of water needs, the water source, consumptive water use, nonconsumptive water use, and information about water reuse.

The reporting requirement would expire on September 1, 2018.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

NOTES:

The committee substitute would require the report be provided to TWDB in addition to TCEQ.