

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R1711 CAG-F

H.B. 963
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Intergovernmental Relations
4/19/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, the filling of playa lakes by contractors in Lubbock creates flooding problems for areas for the city. H.B. 963 would authorize the governing body of a home-rule municipality with a population of 185,000 or more to regulate the alteration or filling of a playa lake within the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction to prevent harmful flooding or excess surface water, and would prohibit regulations adopted under this Act from interfering with certain agricultural practices.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 963 regulates the alteration or filling of playa lakes within a municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction to prevent harmful flooding or excess surface water, as a method of stormwater management.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 401, Local Government Code, by adding Section 401.004, as follows:

Sec. 401.004. PROTECTION OF PLAYA LAKES BY CERTAIN HOME-RULE MUNICIPALITIES. Defines "playa lake." Authorizes the governing body of a home-rule municipality with a population of 185,000 or more to regulate the alteration or filling of a playa lake within the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction to prevent harmful flooding, or excess surface water as a method for stormwater management. Provides that a regulation adopted under this section may not interfere with normal agricultural practices, including moving soil, berming for tail water reuse, plowing, seeding, cultivating, and harvesting for the production of food or fiber; or prohibit any practice or activity that does not decrease the water holding capacity of a playa lake.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.