

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R1939 MI-D

S.B. 76
By: Truan
Border Affairs
2/16/1999
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas law provides general direction for the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) to develop water availability models for the state's river basins. A water availability model accounts for all existing water rights, uses, and demands on a river to determine how much water is available and under what conditions it is available. TNRCC has no plans to develop a water availability model for the Rio Grande. S.B. 76 requires TNRCC to develop a water availability model for the Rio Grande.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 76 requires the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission to develop a water availability model for the Rio Grande.

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 Section 16.012, Water Code, by adding a new Subsection (h), amending and relettering existing Subsection (h) as Subsection (i), and relettering existing Subsections (i) and (j) as Subsection (j) and (k), as follows:

(h) Requires the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) to obtain or to develop an updated water availability model for the Rio Grande before December 1, 2001. Sets forth requirements for the model. Requires TNRCC to collect data from all jurisdictions that allocate the water of the river, including jurisdictions outside this state.

(i) Requires TNRCC to notify all holders of any existing type of water right in the waters of the Rio Grande river who reside in or have corporate resident status in this state.

(j)-(k) Makes conforming changes.

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.

Effective date: upon passage.