

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R16023 E

C.S.H.B. 3655  
By: Kolkhorst (Ogden)  
Natural Resources  
5/10/2001  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Texas faces a difficult challenge to develop water policies that serve both state and regional interests. The Texas Constitution authorizes the creation of groundwater conservation districts to plan, develop, and regulate the use of water. C.S.H.B. 3655 creates the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District, subject to approval at a confirmation election, to manage groundwater resources in Grimes, Washington, Waller, Austin, and Walker counties.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the board of directors of the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District in SECTION 6 of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. CREATION. Sets forth provisions regarding the creation of the Bluebonnet Groundwater Conservation District (district).

SECTION 2. DEFINITION. Defines “district.”

SECTION 3. BOUNDARIES. Sets forth guidelines regarding the boundaries of the district.

SECTION 4. FINDING OF BENEFIT. Sets forth provisions regarding the finding of benefit of the district.

SECTION 5. GENERAL POWERS. Sets forth provisions regarding the general powers of the district.

SECTION 6. FEES. Sets forth provisions regarding the district by rule imposing certain fees.

SECTION 7. EXEMPTIONS. Sets forth provisions regarding permit exemptions.

SECTION 8. MITIGATION ASSISTANCE. Sets forth provisions regarding mitigation assistance.

SECTION 9. MANAGEMENT PLAN. Requires the district to develop a management plan.

SECTION 10. PERMITTING. Sets forth provisions regarding permitting by the district.

SECTION 11. COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ENTITIES. Sets forth provisions regarding the district’s coordination with other entities.

SECTION 12. BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Sets forth provisions regarding the board of directors of the district.

SECTION 13. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS. Sets forth provisions regarding the appointment of directors of the district.

SECTION 14. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING. Requires the directors of the district to convene for an organizational meeting.

SECTION 15. CONFIRMATION ELECTION. Sets forth provisions regarding the calling and holding of a confirmation election.

SECTION 16. FINDINGS RELATED TO PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS. Provides that the required notice and intention of the district has been published and furnished to certain persons and entities.

SECTION 17. EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2001.

### **SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES**

SECTION 1. Amends previously proposed Subsection (a) and adds new Subsection (c).

SECTION 6. Amends previously proposed Subsections (a)-(d).

Adds new SECTIONS 7 (EXEMPTIONS), 8 (MITIGATION ASSISTANCE), 9 (MANAGEMENT PLAN), 10 (PERMITTING), and 11 (COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER ENTITIES).

Renumbers previously proposed SECTIONS 7-12 as SECTIONS 12-17, and amends as follows:

SECTION 12. Amends previously proposed Subsections (a) and (b).

SECTION 13. Amends previously proposed Subsection (a) and adds new Subsection (d).

SECTION 16. Amends previously proposed Subsection (b).