

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
86R7036 BRG-F

S.B. 881
By: Campbell
Veteran Affairs & Border Security
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

S.B. 881 enables military installations to cease pumping water from Edwards Aquifer themselves and instead receive water from the City of San Antonio. This bill would allow a utility owned by the City of San Antonio to withdraw water from Edwards Aquifer without a permit so long as the utility uses the groundwater to supply a military installation. The installation must also reduce its withdrawals from the aquifer by the amount received from the utility. In essence, this bill would let Joint Base San Antonio receive water from the City of San Antonio in lieu of pumping water itself in a way that will not count against the utility's capped amount. This bill is unlikely to face opposition as the amount of water removed from the aquifer will remain the same and will be subject to any applicable drought restrictions. No version of this bill was filed in any previous legislative session.

As proposed, S.B. 881 amends current law relating to withdrawals of water from the Edwards Aquifer to supply a military installation.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 1.15(b), Chapter 626, Acts of the 73rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1993, as follows:

(b) Prohibits a person, except as provided by Sections 1.17, 1.21, and 1.33 of this article, rather than Sections 1.17 and 1.83 of this article, from withdrawing water from the aquifer or beginning construction of a well or other works designed for the withdrawal of water from the aquifer without obtaining a permit from the authority.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 626, Acts of the 73rd Legislature, Regular Session, 1993, by adding Section 1.21, as follows:

Sec. 1.21. SUBSTITUTE WITHDRAWALS. Authorizes, in addition to permitted withdrawals from the aquifer, a municipality owned utility owned by the city of San Antonio, without a permit, to withdraw groundwater from the aquifer if the utility uses the ground water to supply a military installation with water for human consumption, irrigation, operations, mission support, or infrastructure maintenance, and the utility and the military installation enter into a contract requiring the installation to reduce its groundwater withdrawals from the aquifer by the same amount of withdrawn water the installation receives from the utility.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2019.