

# Requiring biennial report on green stormwater infrastructure

HB 1059 by Lucio (Rodríguez)

## Digest

HB 1059 would have required the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to appoint a 10-member group each fiscal biennium to prepare a report on the use of green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development in the state.

Reports prepared under the bill would have had to include a list of each entity with land development authority that allowed the use of green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development in land development projects, an assessment of the various benefits of and recommendations to encourage the increased use of such infrastructure and development, and other items listed in the bill. The groups that prepared these reports would have consisted of members representing counties, cities, certain special districts, university programs related to land development, real estate developers, civil engineers, landscape architects, environmental groups, professional organizations focused on water conservation, and providers of green stormwater infrastructure and low impact development systems or practices.

## Governor's reason for veto

“House Bill 1059 would mandate a series of reports that are redundant and unnecessary. Many cities and counties are already using adaptive strategies to manage stormwater runoff. Institutions of higher education, meanwhile, are providing sufficient information and support to local governments to promote even broader application of these stormwater-management tools.”

## Response

**Rep. Eddie Lucio**, the bill's author, had no comment on the veto.

**Sen. José Rodríguez**, the Senate sponsor, said:

“HB 1059 passed both the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. Contrary to the governor's assertion, numerous experts and stakeholders said the information collected by this study was not duplicative and would have provided local and state governments and other interested parties with information pertinent to green stormwater infrastructure development and the role it plays in the broader water planning strategy of the state. For example, there is no statewide inventory of green infrastructure, so we're not even measuring what we have, much less planning to bring more green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavement to the state. Given the number and severity of flooding occurrences over the last several years and ongoing problems related to water pollution, the state should look at every avenue to mitigate and minimize the negative impacts of these disasters.”

## Notes

[HB 1059](#) was digested in Part One of the April 30 *Daily Floor Report*.