



Interim Charges, 87th Legislature

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Senate Interim Charges (Water, Ag., & Rural Affairs)

Key Water-Related Charges

- **Water Utility Infrastructure:** Evaluate the state's water infrastructure. Study and make recommendations on options to upgrade and update water infrastructure to address deferred maintenance, disasters, and water loss.
- **Water Supply:** Review and make recommendations to complete specific projects identified in the 2022 State Water Plan. In light of recent changes to the global economy, consider the current regulatory process regarding innovative technology solutions to water supply needs, such as marine desalination, and make recommendations for their improvement.
- **Groundwater Management and Protection:** Evaluate the status and effectiveness of the State's groundwater management process, including data used to support regional water planning and conservation goals. Report on the effectiveness of the State's groundwater protection efforts and whether statutory changes are needed to protect groundwater quality.
- **Monitoring** of previous legislation

House Interim Charges (Natural Resources)

- **Monitor** previous legislation.
- Explore ways in which the state can further support the construction of a **coastal barrier**
- system.
- Examine the condition of Texas' **water and flood mitigation infrastructure** capabilities and consider future infrastructure needs. Evaluate sustainable funding sources to provide for water project development and infrastructure repair and replacement. Examine and make recommendations for cost-effective improvements that enhance the state's available water supply and improve the state's ability to desalinate seawater.
- Review the adequacy and efficiency of current mechanisms used to compensate **water right** holders when the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality temporarily transfers a water right under an emergency authorization. Make appropriate recommendations for the protection of private property rights of water right holders.

House Interim Charges (Natural Resources)

- Examine the state's **groundwater management** policy and regulatory framework. Include a review of large-scale water transfers and their impact on groundwater resources. Make appropriate recommendations for legislation or state agency action to:
 - promote the achievement of planning goals under Chapter 36, Water Code, including those involving desired future conditions;
 - provide adequate transparency to the permit application process;
 - further the state's groundwater quality protection efforts,
 - promote conservation and waste prevention.
- Monitor newly adopted and proposed federal regulations that could impact activities that fall within the jurisdiction of the committee, including regulations under consideration by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the **definition of waters of the United States**.