

SUBCHAPTER A: CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE
§§517.1 – 517.12

§517.1 Policy Statement

It is the policy of the State Soil and Water Conservation Board to develop and implement a program to provide funds to districts on a matching basis to assist them with expenses incurred through the administration and implementation of conservation programs. In accordance with this purpose, §§517.1-517.12 of this title (relating to Conservation Assistance) are adopted.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) **District** - A soil and water conservation district created under the Agriculture Code of Texas, Chapter 201.

(2) **State board** - The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board created under the Agriculture Code of Texas, Chapter 201.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.3 Use of Funds

Funds appropriated from the general revenue fund and other sources for conservation assistance may be used by the state board to provide funds to districts on a matching basis, to assist them with expenses incurred through the administration and implementation of conservation programs and activities.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.4 Allocation of Funds

The state board may allocate funds appropriated from the general revenue fund and other sources for conservation assistance to districts and may adjust allocations throughout the year as districts needs and ability to match funds change in order to achieve the most efficient use of state funds.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.5 Requests for Allocations

Districts must submit requests for allocations of conservation assistance funds under this subchapter to the state board on forms provided by the state board.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.6 Approval of Allocations

The state board may consider and approve, reject, or adjust district requests for allocations giving consideration to relative need for funding, district workload, and fund balances, as well as other information deemed necessary by the state board. Only districts for which the state board has established an allocation are eligible to claim funds under this subchapter.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.7 Match Requirements

In order to be eligible to receive funds under this subchapter, a district must have raised an amount of money that is equal to the amount to be received from funds under this subchapter. District-raised funds must be funds other than state funds or earnings from state funds and must have been deposited in a financial institution prior to submitting a claim.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.8 Maximum Allocation

The state board may establish a per district maximum annual allocation based on appropriation levels and district needs, and may adjust the maximum from time to time as available funds and district needs change.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.9 Claims

Claims for conservation assistance funds may be submitted to the state board as districts raise funds. Claims shall be submitted on forms provided by the state board and must include certification that an amount of funds equal to that claimed have been raised by the district from sources other than state funds or earnings from state funds and deposited in a local financial institution, since the beginning of the current fiscal year and prior to the date of the claim. Claims shall not be submitted more often than once each month.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.10 Deadlines

(a) The state board hereby establishes the following deadlines.

(1) By May 15, districts must have claimed 2/3 of their original annual allocation of conservation funds.

(2) By August 1, districts must have all claims for conservation assistance funds in the state office at Temple.

(b) Exceptions to these deadlines can only be made by the state board or the executive director with permission of the state board on a case-by-case basis.

Effective October 23, 1986

§517.11 Audits

The State Board shall have access to all district records for the purpose of verifying compliance with the provisions of this subchapter and other state requirements. The State Board may withhold funds under this subchapter from districts found to be in violation of this subchapter or other state requirements and may require districts to reimburse the State Board for funds claimed and received in violation of this subsection or other state requirements. Any district which has not met the filing requirements of §525.7 of this title will not receive conservation assistance funds under this subchapter until such reports are received in the Temple office.

Effective May 8, 2000

§517.12 Nepotism

The state board may withhold funds under these sections from districts or other entities found by the state board to be in violation of state nepotism statutes.

Effective October 23, 1986