

CHAPTER 718

H.B. No. 1376

An Act relating to taking water from the Gulf of Mexico without a water rights permit.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 11.142, Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11.142. ~~[DOMESTIC AND LIVESTOCK RESERVOIR]~~**PERMIT EXEMPTIONS**
~~[EXEMPTION]~~. (a) Without obtaining a permit, a person may construct on his own property a dam or reservoir to impound or contain not more than 200 acre-feet of water for domestic and livestock purposes.

(b) *Without obtaining a permit, a person who is drilling and producing petroleum and conducting operations associated with drilling and producing petroleum may take for those purposes state water from the Gulf of Mexico and adjacent bays and arms of the Gulf of Mexico in an amount not to exceed one acre-foot during each 24-hour period.*

SECTION 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on April 4, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 125, Nays 0; passed by the Senate on May 26, 1985, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved: June 14, 1985

Effective: Immediately