

CHAPTER 316

H.B. No. 2620

AN ACT

relating to regional apportionment and assessment of the costs of administering water quality management programs by watershed or river basin.

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

SECTION 1. Section 26.0135(h), Water Code, is amended to read as follows:

(h) The Texas Water Commission shall apportion, assess, and recover the reasonable costs of administering water quality management programs under this section from all users of water and wastewater permit holders in the watershed according to the records of the commission generally in proportion to their right, through permit or contract, to use water from and discharge wastewater in the watershed. The cost to river authorities and others to conduct regional water quality assessment shall be subject to prior review and approval by the commission as to methods of allocation and total amount to be recovered. The commission shall adopt rules to supervise and implement the water quality assessment and associated costs. The rules shall ensure that water users and wastewater dischargers do not pay excessive amounts, that a river authority may recover no more than the actual costs of administering the water quality management programs called for in this section, and that no municipality shall be assessed cost for any efforts that duplicate water quality management activities described in Section 26.177 of this chapter. *The rules concerning the apportionment and assessment of reasonable costs shall provide for a recovery of not more than \$5,000,000 annually for fiscal years 1994 and 1995.*

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.

Passed by the House on April 30, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 14, 1993: Yeas 29, Nays 0.

Approved May 27, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.