

CHAPTER 182

S.B. No. 410

AN ACT

relating to agricultural water conservation grant and loan programs.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 15.471, 15.531, 15.532, 15.537, and 15.543, Water Code, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 15.471. GRANTS; PURPOSES. The board may make grants of money to underground water conservation districts and to other districts created under Article III, Sections 52(b)(1) and (2), or Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution~~[-in which there is significant irrigation from surface water or groundwater as determined by the board]~~ for purchasing equipment required for:

(1) *measurement and evaluation of irrigation systems and agricultural water conservation practices on irrigated land, dryland, and rangeland; or*

(2) *demonstration of efficient irrigation systems and agricultural water conservation practices on irrigated land, dryland, and rangeland* ~~[measurement and evaluation of equipment].~~

Sec. 15.531. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "lender" means a state soil and water conservation district under Chapter 201, Agriculture Code, or an underground water conservation district created under Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution, *or an irrigation district created under Article III, Section 52(b)(1), or Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution.*

Sec. 15.532. USE OF FUNDS. The board may use money made available for these purposes, not to exceed \$5 million, to make loans to lenders and guarantees of loans as provided by this subchapter for use in making conservation loans. The money may be used only during the state fiscal years 1986, ~~and~~ 1987, 1988, and 1989.

Sec. 15.537. ~~[OTHER]~~ PURPOSES FOR CONSERVATION LOANS. A lender may use loan funds to make conservation loans for:

- (1) capital equipment or materials composing an irrigation water delivery and application mechanism;
- (2) capital equipment or materials required for physical conversion of an existing irrigation water delivery and application system to an approved system; ~~[and]~~
- (3) associated labor, preparation, and installation costs; *and*
- (4) *physical conversion by an irrigation district to an approved system for the district's irrigation water delivery system.*

Sec. 15.543. AUTHORITY OF DISTRICTS. A soil and water conservation district, ~~[or]~~ underground water conservation district, *or irrigation district* defined as a lender under this subchapter may borrow money from the board and may make loans as provided by this subchapter. The district may adopt necessary rules to carry out this subchapter.

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 the Senate on March 3, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0. Passed the House on May 14, 1987, by the following vote: Yeas 133, Nays 1, one present not voting.

Approved May 26, 1987.

Effective May 26, 1987.