



# ***Legislative Update***

***Presented by  
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***Meeting Date: July 26, 2021***



# ***Special Session***

- **Bail Reform**
- **Election Integrity**
- **Border Security**
- **Social Media Censorship**
- **Lege Branch Funding**
- **Family Violence Prevention**
- **Youth Sports**
- **Abortion Inducing Drugs**
- **TRS Thirteenth Check**
- **Critical Race Theory**
- **Appropriations—Tax relief, foster care, cybersecurity**



# *Regular Session Stats*

- **87th Legislature**
  - Bills Filed: 7327
  - Bills Passed: 1175 (16%)
- **86th Legislature**
  - Bills Filed: 7795
  - Bills Passed: 1564 (20%)
- **85th Legislature**
  - Bills Filed: 7003
  - Bills Passed: 1314 (19%)



# Surface Water

- **HB 2225**-Relating to the powers and duties of the Parks and Wildlife Department regarding the Texas Water Trust.
- **SB 997**-Relating to procedural requirements for the review of a contractual rate charged for the furnishing of raw or treated water or water or sewer service.
- **SB 2154**-Relating to the membership of the Public Utility Commission of Texas.



# *Groundwater*

- **SB 601**-Relating to the creation and activities of the Texas Produced Water Consortium.



# *Transparency*

- **SB 1225**-Relating to the authority of a governmental body impacted by a catastrophe to temporarily suspend the requirements of the public information law.
- **HB 1154**-Relating to the requirement that certain political subdivisions cause certain information to be posted on an internet website.



# *Eminent Domain*

- **HB 2730**-Relating to the acquisition of real property by an entity with eminent domain authority and the regulation of easement or right-of-way agents.
- **SB 726**-Relating to establishing actual progress for the purposes of determining the right to repurchase real property from a condemning entity.



# ***Contracting and Employment***

- **HB 692**-Relating to retainage requirements for certain public works construction projects.
- **SB 19**-Relating to prohibited contracts with companies that discriminate against the firearm or ammunition industries.
- **HB 1118**-Relating to state agency and local government compliance with cybersecurity training requirements.





# *Operations*

- **SB 3**-Relating to preparing for, preventing, and responding to weather emergencies and power outages; increasing the amount of administrative and civil penalties.
- **SB 600**-Relating to an inventory of dams controlled by river authorities.



# ***Sunset Process Recap***

- **Sunset is not designed to tell an agency what they do well, only where they can improve.**
- **Review process lasted from June 2020-Janury 2021.**
- **Sunset staff was extremely professional and easy to work with.**
- **Process included multiple meetings with each BRA department, along with multiple follow-up meetings.**
- **Also included meetings with specific areas such as treatment ops and the lakes.**
- **Requests for Information (RFI's) received weekly. These included multiple questions which included sub-questions.**



# ***Sunset Process Recap***

- **RFI's involved production of a large amount of information/documentation**
- **Considerable staff time spent on producing responses to RFIs.**
- **Sunset report produced contained minimal findings/recommendations, some statutory and some management.**
- **Report initially adopted by Sunset Commission in January 2021**
- **Legislation filed as a result passed both chambers unanimously and signed by the Governor.**
- **BRA up for sunset again in advance of the 2033 session.**



# *Sunset Bill-Lege ATB's*

- **HB 1570**-Relating to the Brazos River Authority, following recommendations of the Sunset Advisory Commission; specifying grounds for the removal of a member of the board of directors.
  - Board member removal
  - Board member training
  - Public remarks at Board meetings
  - Complaint tracking system
  - Board Policy/Staff Day-to-day separation



# *Sunset Mgmt Reccs*

- **Project management/implementation**
  - Project prioritization
  - Info on project progression/expenditures
  - Board strategic plan involvement
  - Public engagement policy for water supply projects
- **Purchasing**
  - Objective criteria for professional service contract awards
  - Document vendor performance
  - Adoption of basic contracting BMPs



# *Sunset Next Steps*

- **BRA staff/Board implementation of Sunset legislative and management recommendations.**
  - Many of the lege ATB reccs already in place
  - Changes to BRA procedures
  - BRA Board bylaw and policy changes (September)
- **Fall 2022-Sunset staff to return, with State Auditor's Office (SAO)**
  - Sunset staff checks compliance with lege reccs
  - SAO staff checks compliance with mgmt reccs



# Brazos River Authority