



The State of Texas
Secretary of State

I, HOPE ANDRADE, Secretary of State of the State of Texas, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY that the attached is a TRUE AND CORRECT copy of
Senate Bill 726, as passed by the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, of the State of
Texas, as signed by the Governor on June 19, 2009, and as filed in this office on
June 19, 2009.

Date Issued: July 16, 2009
HA/SDS/la

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hope Andrade".

Hope Andrade
Secretary of State



Chapter 1208

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of the Harrison County and Prairielands
3 Groundwater Conservation Districts; providing authority to impose
4 a tax and issue bonds and granting a limited power of eminent
5 domain.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

7 SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 6, Special District Local Laws
8 Code, is amended by adding Chapters 8850 and 8855 to read as
9 follows:

10 CHAPTER 8850. HARRISON COUNTY GROUNDWATER

11 CONSERVATION DISTRICT

12 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

13 Sec. 8850.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

14 (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the
15 district.

16 (2) "Director" means a member of the board.

17 (3) "District" means the Harrison County Groundwater
18 Conservation District.

19 Sec. 8850.002. NATURE OF DISTRICT. The district is a
20 groundwater conservation district in Harrison County created under
21 and essential to accomplish the purposes of Section 59, Article
22 XVI, Texas Constitution.

23 Sec. 8850.003. CONFIRMATION ELECTION REQUIRED. If the
24 creation of the district is not confirmed at a confirmation

1 election held under Section 8850.023 before December 31, 2010:

2 (1) the district is dissolved December 31, 2010,
3 except that:

4 (A) any debts incurred shall be paid;

5 (B) any assets that remain after the payment of
6 debts shall be transferred to Harrison County; and

7 (C) the organization of the district shall be
8 maintained until all debts are paid and remaining assets are
9 transferred; and

10 (2) this chapter expires September 1, 2014.

11 Sec. 8850.004. INITIAL DISTRICT TERRITORY. The initial
12 boundaries of the district are coextensive with the boundaries of
13 Harrison County, Texas.

14 Sec. 8850.005. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER GROUNDWATER
15 CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAW. Except as otherwise provided by this
16 chapter, Chapter 36, Water Code, applies to the district.

17 [Sections 8850.006-8850.020 reserved for expansion]

18 SUBCHAPTER A-1. TEMPORARY PROVISIONS

19 Sec. 8850.021. APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY DIRECTORS.

20 (a) Not later than the 45th day after the effective date of the Act
21 enacting this chapter, five temporary directors shall be appointed
22 as follows:

23 (1) the Harrison County Commissioners Court shall
24 appoint four temporary directors, with one of the temporary
25 directors appointed from each of the four commissioners precincts
26 in the county to represent the precincts in which the temporary
27 directors reside; and

1 (2) the county judge of Harrison County shall appoint
2 one temporary director who resides in the district to represent the
3 district at large.

4 (b) Of the temporary directors, at least one director must
5 represent rural water suppliers in the district, one must represent
6 agricultural interests in the district, and one must represent
7 industrial interests in the district.

8 (c) If there is a vacancy on the temporary board of
9 directors of the district, the Harrison County Commissioners Court
10 shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy in a manner that meets
11 the representational requirements of this section.

12 (d) Temporary directors serve until the earlier of:

13 (1) the date initial directors are elected under
14 Section 8850.023; or

15 (2) the fourth anniversary of the effective date of
16 the Act creating this chapter.

17 (e) If initial directors have not been elected under Section
18 8850.023 and the terms of the temporary directors have expired,
19 successor temporary directors shall be appointed in the manner
20 provided by Subsections (a) and (b) to serve terms that expire on
21 the date this subchapter expires under Section 8850.026.

22 Sec. 8850.022. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF TEMPORARY
23 DIRECTORS. As soon as practicable after all the temporary
24 directors have qualified under Section 36.055, Water Code, a
25 majority of the temporary directors shall convene the
26 organizational meeting of the district at a location within the
27 district agreeable to a majority of the directors. If an agreement

1 on location cannot be reached, the organizational meeting shall be
2 at the Harrison County Courthouse.

3 Sec. 8850.023. CONFIRMATION AND INITIAL DIRECTORS'
4 ELECTION. (a) The temporary directors shall hold an election to
5 confirm the creation of the district and to elect the initial
6 directors of the district.

7 (b) The temporary directors shall have placed on the ballot
8 the names of all candidates for an initial director's position who
9 have filed an application for a place on the ballot as provided by
10 Section 52.003, Election Code.

11 (c) The ballot must be printed to provide for voting for or
12 against the proposition: "The creation of the Harrison County
13 Groundwater Conservation District."

14 (d) If the district levies a maintenance tax for payment of
15 expenses, the ballot must be printed to provide for voting for or
16 against the proposition: "The levy of a maintenance tax at a rate
17 not to exceed 1.5 cents for each \$100 of assessed valuation."

18 (e) Section 41.001(a), Election Code, does not apply to an
19 election held under this section.

20 (f) Except as provided by this section, an election under
21 this section must be conducted as provided by Sections
22 36.017(b)-(i), Water Code, and the Election Code. The provision of
23 Section 36.017(d), Water Code, relating to the election of
24 permanent directors does not apply to an election under this
25 section.

26 Sec. 8850.024. INITIAL DIRECTORS. (a) If creation of the
27 district is confirmed at an election held under Section 8850.023,

1 the directors elected shall take office as initial directors of the
2 district and serve on the board of directors until permanent
3 directors are elected under Section 8850.025 or 8850.053.

4 (b) The four initial directors representing the
5 commissioners precincts shall draw lots to determine which two
6 shall serve a term expiring June 1 following the first regularly
7 scheduled election of directors under Section 8850.025, and which
8 two shall serve a term expiring June 1 following the second
9 regularly scheduled election of directors. The at-large director
10 shall serve a term expiring June 1 following the second regularly
11 scheduled election of directors.

12 Sec. 8850.025. INITIAL ELECTION OF PERMANENT DIRECTORS. On
13 the uniform election date prescribed by Section 41.001, Election
14 Code, in May of the first even-numbered year after the year in which
15 the district is authorized to be created at a confirmation
16 election, an election shall be held in the district for the election
17 of two directors to replace the initial directors who, under
18 Section 8850.024(b), serve a term expiring June 1 following that
19 election.

20 Sec. 8850.026. EXPIRATION OF SUBCHAPTER. This subchapter
21 expires September 1, 2014.

22 [Sections 8850.027-8850.050 reserved for expansion]

23 SUBCHAPTER B. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

24 Sec. 8850.051. DIRECTORS; TERMS. (a) The district is
25 governed by a board of five directors.

26 (b) Directors serve staggered four-year terms, with two or
27 three directors' terms expiring June 1 of each even-numbered year.

1 (c) A director may serve consecutive terms.

2 Sec. 8850.052. METHOD OF ELECTING DIRECTORS: COMMISSIONERS

3 PRECINCTS. (a) The directors of the district shall be elected
4 according to the commissioners precinct method as provided by this
5 section.

6 (b) One director shall be elected by the voters of the
7 entire district, and one director shall be elected from each county
8 commissioners precinct by the voters of that precinct.

9 (c) Except as provided by Subsection (e), to be eligible to
10 be a candidate for or to serve as director at large, a person must be
11 a registered voter in the district. To be a candidate for or to
12 serve as director from a county commissioners precinct, a person
13 must be a registered voter of that precinct.

14 (d) A person shall indicate on the application for a place
15 on the ballot:

16 (1) the precinct that the person seeks to represent;

17 or

18 (2) that the person seeks to represent the district at

19 large.

20 (e) When the boundaries of the county commissioners
21 precincts are redrawn after each federal decennial census to
22 reflect population changes, a director in office on the effective
23 date of the change, or a director elected or appointed before the
24 effective date of the change whose term of office begins on or after
25 the effective date of the change, shall serve in the precinct to
6 which elected or appointed even though the change in boundaries
places the person's residence outside the precinct for which the

1 person was elected or appointed.

2 Sec. 8850.053. ELECTION DATE. The district shall hold an
3 election to elect the appropriate number of directors on the
4 uniform election date prescribed by Section 41.001, Election Code,
5 in May of each even-numbered year.

6 Sec. 8850.054. COMPENSATION. (a) Sections 36.060(a),
7 (b), and (d), Water Code, do not apply to the district.

8 (b) A director is entitled to receive compensation of not
9 more than \$50 a day for each day the director actually spends
10 performing the duties of a director. The compensation may not
11 exceed \$3,000 a year.

12 (c) The board may authorize a director to receive
13 reimbursement for the director's reasonable expenses incurred
14 while engaging in activities on behalf of the board.

15 Sec. 8850.055. BOARD ACTION. A majority vote of a quorum is
16 required for board action. If there is a tie vote, the proposed
17 action fails.

18 [Sections 8850.056-8850.100 reserved for expansion]

19 SUBCHAPTER C. POWERS AND DUTIES

20 Sec. 8850.101. GENERAL POWERS. Except as otherwise
21 provided by this chapter, the district has all of the rights,
22 powers, privileges, functions, and duties provided by the general
23 law of this state applicable to groundwater conservation districts
24 created under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

25 Sec. 8850.102. PROHIBITION ON DISTRICT PURCHASE, SALE,
26 TRANSPORT, OR DISTRIBUTION OF WATER. The district may not
27 purchase, sell, transport, or distribute surface water or

1 groundwater for any purpose.

2 Sec. 8850.103. PROHIBITION ON DISTRICT USE OF EMINENT
3 DOMAIN POWER. The district may not exercise the power of eminent
4 domain.

5 [Sections 8850.104-8850.150 reserved for expansion]

6 SUBCHAPTER D. GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

7 Sec. 8850.151. LIMITATION ON TAXES. The district may not
8 impose ad valorem taxes at a rate that exceeds 1.5 cents on each
9 \$100 valuation of taxable property in the district.

10 Sec. 8850.152. FEES. (a) The board by rule may impose
11 reasonable fees on each well:

- 12 (1) for which a permit is issued by the district; and
13 (2) that is not exempt from district regulation.

14 (b) A production fee may be based on:

- 15 (1) the size of column pipe used by the well; or
16 (2) the amount of water actually withdrawn from the
17 well, or the amount authorized or anticipated to be withdrawn.

18 (c) The board shall base the initial production fee on the
19 criteria listed in Subsection (b)(2). The initial production fee:

20 (1) may not exceed:

21 (A) 25 cents per acre-foot for water used for
22 agricultural irrigation; or

23 (B) 4.25 cents per thousand gallons for water
24 used for any other purpose; and

25 (2) may be increased at a cumulative rate not to exceed
26 three percent per year.

27 (d) In addition to the production fee authorized under this

1 section, the district may assess an export fee on groundwater from a
2 well that is produced for transport outside the district.

3 (e) Fees authorized by this section may be:

4 (1) assessed annually;

5 (2) used to pay the cost of district operations; and

6 (3) used for any other purpose allowed under Chapter
7 36, Water Code.

8 Sec. 8850.153. LIMITATION ON INDEBTEDNESS. The district
9 may issue bonds and notes under Subchapter F, Chapter 36, Water
10 Code, except that the total indebtedness created by that issuance
11 may not exceed \$500,000 at any time.

12 CHAPTER 8855. PRAIRIELANDS GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

13 SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

14 Sec. 8855.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

15 (1) "Board" means the board of directors of the
16 district.

17 (2) "Director" means a member of the board.

18 (3) "District" means the Prairielands Groundwater
19 Conservation District.

20 Sec. 8855.002. NATURE OF DISTRICT; FINDINGS. (a) The
21 district is a groundwater conservation district initially composed
22 of Ellis, Hill, Johnson, and Somervell Counties created under and
23 essential to accomplish the purposes of Section 59, Article XVI,
24 Texas Constitution.

25 (b) The district is created to serve a public use and
26 benefit.

27 (c) All of the land and other property included within the

1 boundaries of the district will be benefited by the works and
2 projects that are to be accomplished by the district under powers
3 conferred by this chapter and by Chapter 36, Water Code.

4 (d) Any fees imposed by the district under this chapter are
5 necessary to pay for the costs of accomplishing the purposes of the
6 district, including the conservation and management of groundwater
7 resources, as provided by this chapter and Section 59, Article XVI,
8 Texas Constitution.

9 Sec. 8855.003. DISTRICT TERRITORY. The initial boundaries
10 of the district are coextensive with the boundaries of Ellis, Hill,
11 Johnson, and Somervell Counties.

12 Sec. 8855.004. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER GROUNDWATER
13 CONSERVATION DISTRICT LAW. Except as otherwise provided by this
14 chapter, Chapter 36, Water Code, applies to the district.

15 Sec. 8855.005. CONSTRUCTION OF CHAPTER. This chapter shall
16 be liberally construed to achieve the purposes expressed by this
17 chapter and Chapter 36, Water Code. A power granted by this chapter
18 or Chapter 36, Water Code, shall be broadly interpreted to achieve
19 that intent and those purposes.

20 [Sections 8855.006-8855.020 reserved for expansion]

21 SUBCHAPTER B. INITIAL ORGANIZATION

22 Sec. 8855.021. APPOINTMENT OF INITIAL DIRECTORS. (a) The
23 district is governed by a board of eight initial directors
24 appointed as provided by Section 8855.051(a).

25 (b) Initial directors shall be appointed not later than the
26 90th day after the effective date of the Act enacting this chapter.
27 If after the 90th day fewer than eight initial directors have been

1 appointed, each unfilled initial director position shall be
2 considered a vacancy and filled by the remaining initial directors.

3 (c) Except as provided under Subsection (b) for failure to
4 appoint an initial director, if a vacancy occurs on the board in a
5 position for which an initial director has previously been
6 appointed, the appointing county commissioners court for the vacant
7 position shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy in a manner that
8 meets the representational requirements of Section 8855.051.

9 (d) To be eligible to serve as an initial director, a person
10 must be a registered voter in the appointing county.

11 (e) Each initial director must qualify to serve as a
12 director under Section 36.055, Water Code.

13 Sec. 8855.022. ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF INITIAL
14 DIRECTORS. As soon as practicable after all the initial directors
15 have qualified under Section 36.055, Water Code, a majority of the
16 initial directors shall convene the organizational meeting of the
17 district at a location in the district agreeable to a majority of
18 the directors. If an agreement on location cannot be reached, the
19 organizational meeting shall be held at a suitable location on the
20 Hill College campus in Cleburne, Johnson County, Texas.

21 Sec. 8855.023. INITIAL TERMS. (a) The two initial
22 directors appointed from each county shall draw lots to determine
23 which director serves an initial term expiring August 31, 2011, and
24 which director serves an initial term expiring August 31, 2013.

25 (b) Each successor director shall be appointed and shall
26 serve in accordance with Subchapter C.

27 [Sections 8855.024-8855.050 reserved for expansion]

1 SUBCHAPTER C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2 Sec. 8855.051. GOVERNING BODY; TERMS. (a) Except as
3 provided by Subchapter D, the district is governed by a board of
4 eight directors appointed as follows:

5 (1) two directors appointed by the Ellis County
6 Commissioners Court;

7 (2) two directors appointed by the Hill County
8 Commissioners Court;

9 (3) two directors appointed by the Johnson County
10 Commissioners Court; and

11 (4) two directors appointed by the Somervell County
12 Commissioners Court.

13 (b) Directors serve staggered four-year terms, with the
14 term of one director from each of the four counties expiring on
15 August 31 of each odd-numbered year.

16 (c) A director may serve multiple consecutive terms.

17 Sec. 8855.052. DIRECTOR ELIGIBILITY; QUALIFICATION.

18 (a) To be eligible to serve as a director, a person must be a
19 registered voter in the appointing county.

20 (b) Each director must qualify to serve under Section
21 36.055, Water Code.

22 Sec. 8855.053. VACANCIES. If a vacancy occurs on the board,
23 the appointing county commissioners court for the vacant position
24 shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy. Section 36.051(c),
25 Water Code, does not apply to the district.

26 Sec. 8855.054. COMPENSATION; REIMBURSEMENT.

27 (a) Notwithstanding Sections 36.060(a) and (d), Water Code, a

1 director may not receive compensation for performing the duties of
2 director.

3 (b) A director is entitled to reimbursement of actual
4 expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred while engaging in
5 activities on behalf of the district.

6 [Sections 8855.055-8855.070 reserved for expansion]

7 SUBCHAPTER D. DISTRICT EXPANSION

8 Sec. 8855.071. EXPANSION OF DISTRICT BOUNDARIES.

9 (a) After the effective date of the Act enacting this chapter, the
10 district territory described in Section 8855.003 shall be expanded
11 to include all of the territory in Navarro County, and the governing
12 board described by Section 8855.051(a) shall be expanded to 10
13 members and include two directors appointed by the Navarro County
14 Commissioners Court, if:

15 (1) pursuant to Chapter 35, Water Code, the Texas
16 Commission on Environmental Quality designates all or any portion
17 of the territory in Navarro County as a priority groundwater
18 management area; and

19 (2) following the designation described by
20 Subdivision (1), the commissioners court of Navarro County:

21 (A) adopts a resolution that states, "By this
22 action of the Navarro County Commissioners Court, all of the
23 territory in Navarro County, Texas, shall, as of the date of this
24 resolution, be included in the boundaries of the Prairielands
25 Groundwater Conservation District"; and

26 (B) appoints two directors who are registered to
27 vote in Navarro County to the board.

1 (b) A person appointed under this section must qualify to
2 serve under Section 36.055, Water Code.

3 (c) At the first regular meeting of the board following the
4 qualification of both directors, the two directors appointed under
5 this section shall draw lots to determine which director serves a
6 term expiring August 31 of the first odd-numbered year after the
7 directors' appointment, and which director serves a term expiring
8 August 31 of the next odd-numbered year.

9 (d) A director appointed under this section shall otherwise
10 serve in accordance with Subchapter C.

11 [Sections 8855.072-8855.100 reserved for expansion]

12 SUBCHAPTER E. POWERS AND DUTIES

13 Sec. 8855.101. GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT POWERS
14 AND DUTIES. Except as provided by this chapter, the district has
15 the powers and duties provided by the general law of this state
16 applicable to groundwater conservation districts created under
17 Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, including Chapter 36,
18 Water Code.

19 Sec. 8855.102. CONTRACTS. The district may enter into a
20 contract with any person, public or private, for any purpose
21 authorized by law.

22 Sec. 8855.103. APPLICABILITY OF DISTRICT REGULATIONS.
23 Groundwater regulation under this chapter applies to all persons
24 except as exempted from permitting under Section 36.117, Water
25 Code, or this chapter.

26 Sec. 8855.104. WELL SPACING RULES; EXEMPTIONS. (a) Except
27 as provided by Subsection (b), the district shall exempt from the

1 well spacing requirements adopted by the district any well that is
2 completed on or before the effective date of those requirements.

3 (b) The district may provide by rule that a well may lose its
4 exemption under this section if the well is modified in a manner
5 that substantially increases the capacity of the well after the
6 effective date of the well spacing requirements adopted by the
7 district.

8 (c) Except as provided by this section and notwithstanding
9 Section 8855.103, the district may require a well or class of wells
10 exempt from permitting under Chapter 36, Water Code, to comply with
11 the well spacing requirements adopted by the district. The
12 district shall apply well spacing requirements uniformly to any
13 well or class of wells based on the size or capacity of the well and
14 without regard to the type of use of the groundwater produced by the
15 well.

16 Sec. 8855.105. REGISTRATION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR
17 CERTAIN EXEMPT WELLS. The district may adopt rules that require the
18 owner or operator of a well or class of wells exempt from permitting
19 under Section 36.117, Water Code, to register the well with the
20 district and, except for a well exempt from permitting under
21 Section 36.117(b)(1), to report groundwater withdrawals from the
22 well using reasonable and appropriate reporting methods and
23 frequency.

24 Sec. 8855.106. ENFORCEMENT. (a) The district may enforce
25 this chapter against any person in the manner provided by Chapter
26 36, Water Code. In lieu of a remedy available to the district under
27 Section 36.102, Water Code, or in addition to those remedies, the

1 district may impose a fee in addition to a fee assessed under
2 Section 8855.152 on a person producing groundwater in violation of
3 a district order or rule, including the failure or refusal to comply
4 with any district order or rule relating to reducing or ceasing
5 groundwater use. The purpose of a fee authorized by this subsection
6 is to serve as a disincentive to producing groundwater except as
7 authorized by the district.

8 (b) A fee imposed under Subsection (a) may not exceed an
9 amount equal to 10 times the amount of a fee assessed under Section
10 8855.152.

11 [Sections 8855.107-8855.150 reserved for expansion]

12 SUBCHAPTER F. GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

13 Sec. 8855.151. TAXES PROHIBITED. The district may not
14 impose a tax. Sections 36.020(a) and 36.201-36.204, Water Code, do
15 not apply to the district.

16 Sec. 8855.152. DISTRICT REVENUES. (a) The district by
17 rule, resolution, or order may establish, amend, pledge, encumber,
18 spend the proceeds from, and assess to any person production fees,
19 based on the amount of groundwater authorized by permit to be
20 withdrawn from a well or on the amount of water actually withdrawn,
21 to enable the district to fulfill its purposes and regulatory
22 functions as provided by this chapter. The district may use revenue
23 generated by fees it assesses for any lawful purpose.

24 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of general law to the
25 contrary, a fee authorized by Subsection (a) may not exceed:

26 (1) \$1 per acre-foot annually for groundwater used for
27 agricultural purposes; or

1 (2) 30 cents per thousand gallons annually for
2 groundwater used for nonagricultural purposes.

3 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of general law or this
4 chapter to the contrary, if any, the district may assess a
5 production fee under this section for groundwater produced from a
6 well or class of wells exempt from permitting under Section 36.117,
7 Water Code, except for a well exempt from permitting under Section
8 36.117(b)(1). A production fee assessed by the district under this
9 subsection must be based on the amount of groundwater actually
10 withdrawn from the well and may not exceed the amount established by
11 the district for permitted uses under Subsection (b)(2) of this
12 section.

13 (d) Notwithstanding Section 36.1071(f), Water Code, the
14 district by rule, resolution, or order before the adoption of its
15 management plan may:

16 (1) establish, assess, and enforce the collection of
17 production fees under this section; and

18 (2) establish and enforce metering and reporting
19 requirements, except for a well exempt from permitting under
20 Section 36.117(b)(1), Water Code.

21 (e) The district by rule may establish a temporary or
22 permanent discounted fee rate for persons who prepay production
23 fees to the district under this section on or before the dates
24 established by district rule.

25 SECTION 2. (a) The legal notice of the intention to
26 introduce this Act, setting forth the general substance of this
27 Act, has been published as provided by law, and the notice and a

1 copy of this Act have been furnished to all persons, agencies,
2 officials, or entities to which they are required to be furnished
3 under Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, and Chapter 313,
4 Government Code.

5 (b) The governor has submitted the notice and Act to the
6 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

7 (c) The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has filed
8 its recommendations relating to this Act with the governor,
9 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives
10 within the required time.

11 (d) All requirements of the constitution and laws of this
12 state and the rules and procedures of the legislature with respect
13 to the notice, introduction, and passage of this Act are fulfilled
14 and accomplished.

15 SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of
16 this section, this Act takes effect immediately if it receives a
17 vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

21 (b) Chapter 8855, Special District Local Laws Code, as added
22 by Section 1 of this Act, takes effect September 1, 2009.

David Newkum
President of the Senate

Jim Strawn
Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 726 passed the Senate on April 22, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0; May 28, 2009, Senate refused to concur in House amendments and requested appointment of Conference Committee; May 30, 2009, House granted request of the Senate; May 31, 2009, Senate adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Datsy Saw
Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 726 passed the House, with amendments, on May 27, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, one present not voting; May 30, 2009, House granted request of the Senate for appointment of Conference Committee; May 31, 2009, House adopted Conference Committee Report by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Robert Haney
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

19 JUN '09

Date

Rick Perry
Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
2 PM O'CLOCK

JUN 18 2009

Colby Shuter III