

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Authorizes a levy increase for the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District

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Overview

Authorizes an additional general fund levy for the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District not to exceed 0.02394 percent of taxable market value to pay the costs attributable to certain watershed projects. Effective without local approval beginning with taxes levied in 2006, payable in 2007 through taxes levied in 2011, payable in 2012.

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- 1 Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; levy.** Authorizes an additional general fund levy for the Buffalo Red-River Watershed District. The annual levy may not exceed 0.02394 percent of taxable market value. The levy must pay for costs attributable to the basic water management features of projects initiated by petition of (i) a political subdivision within the watershed district, or (ii) at least 50 resident owners of property within the district. The levy may also be used to develop and implement total maximum daily loads for water quality. For payable 2006, this levy would be about \$650,000.

Effective, without local approval, beginning with taxes levied in 2006, payable in 2007 through taxes levied in 2011, payable in 2012.

This levy is in addition to the general fund levy authority available to all watershed districts under current law of 0.048 percent of taxable market value, or \$250,000, whichever is less. It is intended to replace the additional levy authority of 0.00798 percent of taxable market

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value also available to all districts under current law. For the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, this additional authority yields about \$221,000 for taxes payable in 2006. This bill would increase that levy to approximately \$650,000, a \$429,000 increase.

Language is needed to clarify the reference to the 15 consecutive year limitation on the project, since the levy authorization is for 5 years only.