

## **Water legislation dies after failing to coax House vote**

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An environmental bill intended to ensure fresh water for Texas bays and estuaries died early Wednesday morning in the Texas House.

The Senate bill would have created a commission that would have set aside water for environmentally sensitive areas.

It was one of several measures that failed to get a House vote. Tuesday was the last day for the House to go preliminary approval to Senate legislation.

Some pieces of the bill may still make it into other measures. Rep. Robert Puente, D-San Antonio and chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, said he hopes the flow provisions with the fresh water guarantee will survive in other legislation.

“There are still a lot of avenues,” Puente said. “A lot of work was put into it by a lot of people.”

Puente said the measure suffered from bad timing. The Senate sent the bill to the House less than a month ago, which left too little time for a full debate.

“We didn’t get a chance to float ideas, to make compromises,” he said. “The ultimate control was to bury it deep in the (House) calendar.”