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25 Apr-7 AM 08:27  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY: Romero

1 Amend C.S.S.B. No. 1 (house committee printing) in Article VI  
2 of the bill, following the appropriations to the Commission on  
3 Environmental Quality (page VI-18), by adding the following  
4 appropriately numbered rider:

5 \_\_\_\_\_. Study on Desalination. (a) Out of funds appropriated  
6 above, the Commission on Environmental Quality, in cooperation with  
7 the Parks and Wildlife Department and the General Land Office,  
8 shall conduct a desalination study. The study must evaluate, for  
9 the purpose of protecting marine organisms, local industries  
10 dependent on coastal resources, and the health of coastal  
11 ecosystems:

12 (1) whether diversion of marine seawater from bays or  
13 arms of the Gulf of Mexico for desalination is appropriate; and

14 (2) tolerances that are appropriate for the discharge  
15 of waste from the desalination of treated marine seawater or  
16 brackish water into bays or arms of the Gulf of Mexico.

17 (b) The study must analyze relevant factors, including:

18 (1) acceptable brine concentrate salinity;

19 (2) brine concentrate toxicity;

20 (3) ambient temperature of brine concentrate;

21 (4) water velocity in the mixing zone;

22 (5) the cumulative volume of discharged desalination  
23 waste relative to bay circulation and exchange; and

24 (6) discharge location factors to minimize potential:

25 (A) harm to marine organisms; and

26 (B) impairment of benefits for marine organisms  
27 provided by freshwater inflows.

28 (c) Not later than September 1, 2026, the commission shall  
29 submit to the legislature a report on the results of the study. The

1 report must:

2           (1) determine whether diversion of marine seawater  
3 from any bay or arm of the Gulf of Mexico for desalination is  
4 appropriate and whether discharge of waste from the desalination of  
5 treated marine seawater or brackish water into a bay or arm of the  
6 Gulf of Mexico is appropriate;

7           (2) recommend tolerances for the discharges described  
8 by Subdivision (1) according to the factors listed in Subsection  
9 (b);

10           (3) propose standard modeling to be used to evaluate  
11 discharge permit applications; and

12           (4) make any other recommendations for measures  
13 necessary to protect marine organisms, local industries dependent  
14 on coastal resources, and the health of coastal ecosystems from  
15 potential effects of desalination diversion and discharge.