



AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

Texas Farm Bureau's Weekly Newsletter for the 87th Legislature

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Every Friday, this newsletter will keep you up to speed on some of the legislation important to Texas Farm Bureau members that Austin staff are following.

Please do not hesitate to contact the appropriate staff with any questions.

Legislative Update

Eminent Domain Reform

HB 901 vs. HB 2730

HB 901: Relating to the acquisition of real property by an entity with eminent domain authority.

[Rep. Burns, DeWayne \(R\)](#)

HB 901 was discussed in the House Committee on Land and Resource Management on Tuesday, March 30. TFB President Russell Boening and several members of the Board, along with other county leaders, spent the day in Austin to personally testify in support of HB 901.

Click [here](#) to read our original summary of HB 901 in Issue 2 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 901. (TFB 2021 Policy: Eminent Domain 151, Pages 61-62, Lines 9-15 and 52-62.)

HB 2730: Relating to the acquisition of real property by an entity with eminent domain authority.

[Rep. Deshotel, Joe \(D\)](#)

HB 2730 was discussed in the House Committee on Land and Resource Management on Tuesday, March 30.

Click [here](#) to read our action alert on HB 2730 in Issue 8 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

HB 2730 touts having the same reform goals as HB 901, but TFB disagrees that its provisions protect property owners like HB 901 does. TFB **supports** HB 901 and **opposes** HB 2730. (TFB 2021 Policy: Eminent Domain 151, Pages 61-62, Lines 9-15 and 52-62.)

Condemnation & Property Taxes

HB 2043 and **SB 725**: Relating to the qualification of land for appraisal for ad valorem tax purposes as agricultural land and the liability for the additional tax imposed on such land if the use of the land changes as a result of a condemnation.

[Rep. Leman, Ben \(R\)](#)

[Sen. Schwertner, Charles \(R\)](#)

On Tuesday, March 30, the committee substitute for HB 2043 was voted favorably from the House Committee on Land and Resource Management.

Simultaneously, SB 725 was heard on Monday, March 29, in the Senate Committee on Local Government. The bill was left pending.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of companions HB 2043 and SB 725 in Issue 7 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** companions HB 2043 and SB 725. (TFB 2021 Policy: Real Property Rights 150, Page 56, Lines 32-35. Property Taxes 142, Page 37, Lines 65-68.)

Water

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

[Sen. Perry, Charles \(R\)](#)

On Tuesday, March 30, SB 601 was passed to the third reading by the Texas Senate with 31 votes *for* and 0 votes *against*.

A house companion to SB 601 was filed by Rep. Dustin Burrows (R). [HB 3096](#) was referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of SB 601 on Issue 5 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** SB 601. (TFB 2021 Policy: Water Management 155, Page 78, Lines 146 – 147.)

Rural Connectivity

HB 5: Relating to expansion of broadband services to certain areas.

[Rep. Ashby, Trent \(R\)](#)

On Thursday, March 25, the committee substitute for HB 5 was voted favorably from the House Committee on State Affairs.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 5 in Issue 9 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 5. (TFB 2021 Policy: Rural Living Section 183, Pages 116-117, Lines 47-54.)

High-Speed Rail

HB 3312: Relating to the disposition of real property acquired for high-speed rail projects.

[Rep. Harris, Cody \(R\)](#)

Summary

On Tuesday, March 30, the House Committee on Land and Resource Management heard public testimony on HB 3312.

HB 3312 would require that any land acquired for a high-speed rail (HSR) project could only be used for that purpose. The bill would also require that acquired land be offered back to the seller, or their successor, if the HSR project is canceled.

TFB **supports** HB 3312. (TFB 2021 Policy: Rail Transportation 162, Page 93, lines 68-69.)

HB 3633: Relating to to establishing a High-Speed Rail Legislative Review Committee.

[Rep. Leman, Ben \(R\)](#)

Summary

On Tuesday, March 30, the House Committee on Land and Resource Management heard public testimony on HB 3633.

The bill would establish a thorough vetting process by which the Legislature would review each high-speed rail (HSR) project separately and determine whether or not the project would be granted the power of eminent domain.

To begin the process an HSR project entity would have to submit an application that would be reviewed by an HSR Review Committee of six legislators: The Lt. Governor would appoint three senators (one rural, one urban, one other). The Speaker would appoint three representatives (same breakdown). The Lt. Gov and Speaker would each designate one appointee that would serve as "co-chairs."

If the review committee found the application to be of merit, the committee would then make a recommendation to the Legislature for the re-establishment of the Texas HSR Authority, which was abolished in 1995, to decide on granting of a "franchise" to a HSR entity, allowing them the power of eminent domain.

TFB **supports** HB 3633. (TFB 2021 Policy: Rail Transportation162, Page 92, lines 29-45.)

Crop Health

HB 2089 and **SB 731:** Relating to the detection and mitigation of plant pests and diseases.

[Rep. Burrows, Dustin \(R\)](#)

[Sen. Perry, Charles \(R\)](#)

HB 2089 was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock. The committee held a public hearing on HB 2089 last week.

SB 731 was referred to the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 2089 and SB 731 in Issue 8 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** companions HB 2089 and SB 731. (TFB 2021 Policy: Wheat and Feed Grains 129, Page 19, Lines 9-12 / Animal Species Generally 148, Page 55, Lines 13-15 & 31-34 / Fruits and Vegetables 116, Page 12, Lines 4-7 / Pecans 123, Page 18, Lines 6-7 / Plant Diseases and Insects 136, Page 29, Lines 6-8 & 31 & 39-44.)

Livestock

HB 1958 and **SB 1342**: Relating to the regulation of livestock export-import processing facilities.

[Rep. Gonzalez, Mary \(D\)](#)

[Sen. Springer, Drew \(R\)](#)

HB 1958 was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock. The committee held a public hearing on HB 1958 last week.

SB 1342 was referred to the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 1958 in Issue 7 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** companions HB 1958 and SB 1342. (TFB 2021 Policy: Texas Animal Health Commission 107, Pages 5 & 6, Lines 14-18 / Livestock 120, Page 16, Lines 138-139.)

Agricultural Vandalism

HB 1480: Relating to the protection of animal and crop facilities.

[Rep. Cyrier, John \(R\)](#)

On Monday, March 29, the committee substitute for HB 1480 was voted favorably from the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 1480 in Issue 4 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** companions HB 1480 and SB 472. (TFB Policy: Animal Welfare 149, Page 56, Line 2).

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