



AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

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

April 9, 2021 | Regular Session, Issue 12 | 87th Regular Session

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

HB 901 and **HB 2730**: Relating to the acquisition of real property by an entity with eminent domain authority.

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

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

Representative Burns & Chairman Deshotel have solicited input and bill language from stakeholders since the committee hearing on HB 901 and HB 2730 last week.

Texas Farm Bureau has continued to work with both offices in providing input on the language provided to both bill authors. We are working to ensure that whichever bill passed by the committee includes the provisions necessary to help landowners negotiate a fair deal for their property.

At this time, Chairman Deshotel's goal is to vote on the bill at the regular hearing of the committee on April 20. However, this could change depending on many factors, including the support or opposition of stakeholders.

Either bill needs to be passed by the committee before the end of April to have the best chance of passing the House.

Water

SB 152: and **HB 668**: Relating to the regulation of groundwater conservation districts.

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

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

On Wednesday, April 7, SB 152 passed the Texas Senate unanimously.

Click [here](#) to read the full summary on SB 152 and HB 668 in Issue 3 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** SB 152 and HB 668. (TFB 2021 Policy: Real Property Rights 150, Page 57, Lines 13-16; Groundwater 153, Pages 67 and 69, Lines 9-13, 45-59 and 140-145.)

HB 3619 and **SB 946**: Relating to the criteria considered by groundwater conservation districts before granting or denying a permit.

[Rep. Bowers, Rhetta \(D\)](#)

[Sen. Eckhardt, Sarah \(D\)](#)

On Tuesday, April 6, HB 3619 was heard by the House Committee on Natural Resources. Texas Farm Bureau registered in opposition to the bill.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 3619 and SB 946 in Issue 10 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **opposes** HB 3619 and SB 946. (TFB 2021 Policy: Groundwater 153, Page 68, Lines 53-56).

Rural Connectivity

HB 5 and **SB 5**: Relating to the expansion of broadband services to certain areas.

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

[Sen. Nichols, Robert \(R\)](#)

Passed by Senate, on to House: On Wednesday, March 31, SB 5 was passed to the third reading by the Texas Senate with 31 votes for and 0 votes against. The Senate adopted one amendment to adjust the due date of the development map publication by three months.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of SB 5 in Issue 8 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

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

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

HB 425: Relating to the use of the universal service fund for the provision of broadband service in underserved rural areas.

[Rep. King, Ken \(R\)](#)

On Thursday, April 1, HB 425 was passed favorably from the House Committee on State Affairs.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 425 in Issue 2 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** legislative efforts to facilitate the installation of broadband and cellular infrastructure in underserved rural communities. (TFB 2021 Policy: Rural Living Section 183, Pages 116-117, Lines 47-54).

Utility Regulation

HB 10: Relating to the governing body of the independent organization certified to manage the ERCOT power region.

[Rep. Paddie, Chris \(R\)](#)

Passed by House, on to Senate: On Wednesday, March 31, HB 10 was passed out of the House with 149 votes *for* and 0 *against* and received in the Senate.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 10 in Issue 9 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 10. (TFB 2021 Policy: Utilities 146, Page 50, lines 48-51.)

HB 11: Relating to the extreme weather emergency preparedness of facilities for providing electric service.

[Rep. Paddie, Chris \(R\)](#)

Passed by House, on to Senate: On Wednesday, March 31, HB 11 was passed out of the House with 149 votes *for* and 0 *against* and received in the Senate.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 11 in Issue 9 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 11. (TFB 2021 Policy: Utilities 146, Page 50, lines 48-51.)

Tort Reform

HB 365: Relating to the limitation of liability for farm animal activities.

[Rep. Murr, Andrew \(R\)](#)

Passed by House, on to Senate: On Wednesday, March 31, HB 365 was passed to the third reading by the Texas House with 147 *for* and 0 *against*. The House adopted one amendment to include beekeeping.

On Thursday, April 1, HB 365 was passed out of the House with 147 votes for and 0 votes against. It was received by the Senate on Monday, April 6.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 365 in Issue 2 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 365. (TFB 2021 Policy: Livestock Section 120, Page 15, Lines 43-44, Property Rights Section 150, Page 58, Lines 97-99.)

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