



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

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

Primary Author:

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

Joint Authors:

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

[Rep. Geren, Charlie \(R\)](#)

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

[Rep. Canales, Terry \(D\)](#)

On May 20, HB 2730 was voted favorably from the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence. It will now be taken up by the full Senate. Texas Farm Bureau communicated support for the bill with each committee member.

Click [here](#) to read our update on HB 2730 in Issue 17 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 2730. (TFB 2021 Policy: Eminent Domain 151, Pages 61-62, Lines 9-15 and 52-62.)

HB 448: Relating to the right of property owners to file complaints against certain entities regulated by the Railroad Commission of Texas regarding alleged misconduct by the entities while exercising eminent domain authority.

[Rep. Bailes, Ernest \(R\)](#)

On May 17, HB 448 was voted favorably from the Senate Committee on Senate Affairs.

TFB **supports** HB 448. (TFB 2021 Policy: Eminent Domain 151, Page 63, Lines 125-127.)

HB 3385: Relating to a landowner's bill of rights statement in connection with the acquisition of real property through eminent domain.

[Rep. Rogers, Glenn \(R\)](#)

Passed the House, on to Senate: On May 14, HB 3385 was passed unanimously out of the House with 143 votes *for* and 0 votes *against*. The bill was heard in the Senate Committee on State Affairs on May 20.

Summary

HB 3385 proposes adding an additional statement to the Landowner's Bill of Rights which notifies landowners of their right to submit a report of decreased value for the owner's remaining property to their appraisal district office.

TFB **supports** HB 3385. (TFB 2021 Policy: Property Taxes 142, Pages 36-37, Lines 35-38.)

HB 4107: Relating to the notice of entry for the purpose of exercising the power of eminent domain by a common carrier pipeline.

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

Passed the House, on to Senate: On May 14, HB 3385 was passed out of the House with 127 votes *for* and 1 vote *against*. Click [here](#) to see the record vote for the third reading. The bill was heard in the Senate Committee on State Affairs on May 20.

Summary

HB 4107 proposes strengthening the requirements that a common carrier must meet before entering private property for the purpose of conducting a survey used in the exercise of the power of eminent domain. Additionally, it proposes that the landowner should be provided with safeguards and notices when their property is subject to these surveys.

The indemnification and notice must be provided to the landowner at least two days before the entry. It must include a contact number so that the landowner can inquire further. It may be provided by first class mail, email, personal delivery to an adult living on the property, or by any other method of service authorized by the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

Further, HB 4107 proposes that these types of entries should be limited to surveys of the portion of the land meant for the proposed pipeline unless otherwise authorized by the landowner. If property is altered with the permission of the landowner, the surveying company must restore the property to as close to its original condition as is reasonable.

TFB **supports** HB 4107. (TFB 2021 Policy: Real Property Rights 150 Pg. 57, lines 13-16.)

Texas Farm Bureau Health Plan

HB 3924: Relating to health benefits offered by certain nonprofit agricultural organizations.

[Rep. Oliverson, Tom \(R\)](#)

HB 3924 is the legislation that allows Texas Farm Bureau to offer health plans to its members.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FAQ ON HB 3924](#)

On May 20, HB 3924 was passed to third reading by the Senate with 18 votes *for* and 13 votes *against*. Click [here](#) to see the record vote for second reading.

Water

SB 601 and **HB 3096:** Relating to the creation and activities of the Texas Produced Water Consortium.

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

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

On May 18, SB 601 was passed unanimously by the House.

Click [here](#) to read our original summary of SB 601 in Issue 4 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** SB 601 and HB 3096. (TFB 2021 Policy: Water Management 155, Page 78, Lines 146 – 147.)

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

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

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

On May 18, SB 152 was passed unanimously by the House. The version that passed the House is summarized [herein](#) Issue 16 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.)

Truth in Labeling

SB 1145: Relating to marketing and labeling requirements for certain food products, including imitation meat and egg food products.

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

On May 19, the committee substitute for SB 1145 was voted favorably from the House Committee on Public Health.

The House committee substitute for SB 1145 removed the labeling of eggs and fish from the bill.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of SB 1145 in Issue 15 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** SB 1145. (TFB 2021 Policy: Dairy 113, Page 10, Line 9, Livestock 120, Page 15, Lines 45-57 and 177-181, Marketing 132, Page 23, Lines 69-74.)

Farm Animal Liability

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

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

Passed by Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor: On May 19, HB 365 was passed unanimously by the Senate.

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.)

Land Use

HB 222: Relating to liability of burn bosses in connection with certain prescribed burns.

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

On May 20, HB 222 was heard and voted favorably from the Senate Committee on Jurisprudence.

Summary

HB 222 proposes amendments to the law of liability for “burn bosses” in relation to prescribed burns. The burn boss’ liability is limited the amount of insurance required

under [current law](#). The burn boss must meet minimum experience and accreditation standards, as well as maintain liability insurance coverage.

Click [here](#) to read the Senate Research Center analysis for HB 222.

TFB **supports** HB 222. (TFB 2021 Policy: 147 Environmental Issues, Page 53, Lines 44-55)

HB 2004: Relating to disclosure requirements for agreements consenting to municipal annexation.

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

Passed Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor: On May 19, HB 2004 was passed unanimously by the Senate.

Summary

HB 2004 proposes amendments to the law of liability for “burn bosses” in relation to prescribed burns. The burn boss has liability protection from any property damage, personal injury, or death from smoke that occurs more than 300 feet from the burn, if they meet minimum experience and accreditation standards, as well as maintain liability insurance coverage. HB 2004 also includes a provision that prohibits disciplinary action against a burn boss by any state agency or department.

TFB **supports** HB 2004. (TFB 2021 Policy: 147 Environmental Issues, Page 53, Lines 44-50.)

Sunset Review Texas Department of Agriculture, Prescribed Burning Board, & Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

SB 703: Relating to the continuation and functions of the Department of Agriculture, the Prescribed Burning Board, and the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation and the abolishment of the Early Childhood Health and Nutrition Interagency Council.

[Rep. Canales, Terry \(D\)](#)

[Sen. Buckingham, Dawn \(R\)](#)

On May 20, SB 703 was passed to the third reading with two amendments. Click [here](#) to see the list of proposed amendments.

The amendment by Rep. Tracy King gives hemp growers an additional 10 days to harvest a crop after it has been tested for THC levels. Current law requires the grower to harvest within 20 days.

The amendment by Rep. Craig Goldman requires a review of the effectiveness and management of the Go Texan program.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of SB 703 in Issue 14 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 1835 and SB 703. (TFB 2021 Policy: Texas Department of Agriculture 106, Page 4, Lines 1-6 and 30-32.)

Sunset Review Animal Health Commission

SB 705: Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Animal Health Commission.

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

[Sen. Lucio Jr., Eddie \(D\)](#)

On May 20, SB 705 was passed to the third reading.

Click [here](#) to read our original summary of SB 705 in Issue 11 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** SB 705. (TFB 2021 Policy: Livestock 120, Pages 15-16, Lines 88-91).

Agricultural Vandalism

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

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

On May 18, HB 1480 was voted favorably from the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, & Rural Affairs.

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).

Livestock

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

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

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

Passed Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor: On May 19, HB 1958 was passed unanimously from the Senate.

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

TFB **supports** 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.)

Commodities

HB 3948 and **SB 1778:** Relating to the production and regulation of hemp and consumable hemp products; authorizing a fee.

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

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

On May 18, HB 3948 was voted favorably from the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 3948 and SB 1778 in Issue 17 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 3948 and SB 1778. (TFB 2021 Policy: Commodities - General 109, Page 7, lines 26-28.)

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