



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

Texas Farm Bureau Health Plan

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

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

Passed Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor On May 28, HB 3924 was finally passed by the House. Click [here](#) to see the record vote for concurrence with Senate amendments.

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](#)

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 \(D\)](#)

Passed Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor: On May 26, HB 2730 was passed unanimously from the Senate.

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 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 Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor: On May 24, HB 4107 passed the Senate unanimously.

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

Agricultural Vandalism

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

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

Passed Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor: On May 26, HB 1480 passed the Senate unanimously. We are waiting to see if Rep. Cyrier concurs with Senate amendments.

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

TFB **supports** HB 1480. (TFB 2021 Policy: Animal Welfare 149, Page 56, Line 2).

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 23, SB 703 was passed by the House with 144 votes *for* and 1 vote *against*. Click [here](#) to see the record vote for the Third Reading. Click [here](#) to see the list of proposed and adopted amendments. Sen. Buckingham refused to concur with the House amendments, so we are awaiting the appointment of a conference committee.

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 Texas 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 23, SB 705 was passed by the House with 144 votes *for* and 1 vote *against*. Click [here](#) to see the record vote for the Third Reading. We are waiting to see if Sen. Lucio concurs with the House amended version.

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).

Commodities

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

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

On May 26, HB 3948 was amended and passed from the Senate with 30 votes for and 1 vote against. Click [here](#) and click "record vote" to view the third reading vote.

The bill now requires the Department of State Health Services to adopt rules allowing hemp byproducts to be used in feed for non-consumable livestock without having to obtain federal approval. The bill now goes back to the House for concurrence.

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

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

Feral Hogs

A product of conference committee negotiations on [SB 1](#) (state budget bill) has resulted in new feral hog control language—which will allow the Texas Department of Agriculture and Texas A&M AgriLife to evaluate the efficacy of the warfarin-based feral hog toxicant, Kaput. AgriLife will receive \$500,000 to conduct the study. The proposed program in this appropriations bill will facilitate landowners having access to this toxicant if the program proves successful.

(TFB 2021 Policy: Feral Hogs 114, Page 11, Lines 9-10 and 14-15 and 22-24.)

Land Use

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

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

Passed Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor: On May 26, HB 222 was passed unanimously out of the Senate.

Click [here](#) to read our summary of HB 222 in Issue 19 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

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

Rural Veterinarian Incentive Program

HB 1259 and **SB 1447:** Relating to the rural veterinarian incentive program.

[Rep. Darby, Drew \(R\)](#)

[Sen. Seliger, Kel \(R\)](#)

Passed Texas Legislature, on to Texas Governor: On May 21, HB 1259 was passed out of the Senate with 30 votes *for* and 1 vote *against*. Click [here](#) to see the record vote for the third reading.

Click [here](#) our summary of HB 1259 and SB 1447 in Issue 15 of the *Austin Newsletter*.

TFB **supports** HB 1259 and SB 1447. (TFB 2021 Policy: Livestock 120, Page 16, Lines 102-103.)

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