



# AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

Texas Farm Bureau's Weekly Newsletter for the 88th Legislature

---

May 12, 2023 | Regular Session, Issue 17 | 88th 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.

## Update on Previously Reported Bills

**[HB 73](#)** Relating to limitation of certain liability of owners, lessees, and occupants of land in connection with livestock and agricultural land.

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

### Summary:

HB 73 prevents landowners from being held liable from damages caused by livestock due to a damaged fence. It also prevents the landowner from being held liable due to acts of God, wildlife, and livestock that are beyond the control of the landowner.

### Update:

HB 73 was voted favorably out of Senate Committee on State Affairs with an 11-0 vote.

TFB **supports** HB 73. TFB 2023 Policy: Livestock, Page 15, Lines 43-44; Real Property Rights, Page 59-60, Lines 62-64, 90-92.

**[SB 1133](#)**: Relating to a grant program to compensate certain property owners for damages caused by criminal activities.

[Blanco, Cesar \(D\)](#)

### Summary:

SB 1133 creates a grant program to compensate property owners for damages caused by criminal activity. Part of the eligibility criteria would require applicants to promptly report the offense/damage to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

**Update:**

SB 1133 was voted favorably from Committee on House State Affairs with an 11-0 vote. SB 1133 will now go to the Calendars Committee where it will receive a date to be heard on the House floor.

TFB **supports** SB 1133. (TFB 2023 Policy: Real Property Rights, Pages 59-60, Line 65-67; Punishment, Page 122, Lines 15-16, 22-26.)

**HB 2443:** Relating to the authority of certain persons to petition a groundwater conservation district to change certain rules.

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

**Summary:**

HB 2443 gives those persons with “groundwater ownership and rights” the authority to petition their water district to change the district’s rules.

**Update:**

HB 2443 was passed by the House of Representatives with a 144-0 vote. It has been referred to the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs.

TFB **supports** HB 2443. (TFB 2023 Policy: Real Property Rights Section 150, Page 58, Lines 2-5; Groundwater Section 153, Page 70, Lines 57-59)

**HB 4872:** Relating to the reporting and plugging of certain wells.

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

**Summary:**

This bill establishes a process “through which a landowner may report... the presence on [their] land” of an oil well that was converted to a P-13 water well, which has not been properly plugged or poses a threat to groundwater or surface water.

HB 4872 sets up a grant program for landowners who make the report above to receive assistance to plug P-13 wells. A landowner may apply for a grant to cover the costs of plugging P-13 wells on their property.

**Update:**

HB 4872 was passed by the House of Representatives with a 145-0 vote.

TFB **supports** HB 4872. (TFB Policy: Water Quality Section 156, Page 82, Lines 32-24)

**[HB 2308:](#)** Relating to nuisance lawsuits against ag operations.

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

**Summary:**

HB 2308 improves the protections in current law regarding nuisance lawsuits against ag operations. The definition of an ag operation was broadened by an amendment on the Senate floor to make clear that “growing vegetation for... livestock forage, [and] forage for wildlife management” is part of an ag operation.

**Update:**

HB 2308 was passed by the Senate with a 30-1 vote. It was then sent back to the House of Representatives with a Senate Floor Amendment. As amended, HB 2308 was passed by the House with a 139-0 vote. It will now go to the governor.

TFB **supports** HB 2308. (TFB 2023 Policy: Real Property Rights Section 150, Page 59, Lines 29-31; Real Property Rights Section 150, Page 60, Lines 107-108; Real Property Rights Section 150, Page 61, Lines 153-154).

**[HB 2684:](#)** Relating to the issuance of oversize or overweight permits for vehicles transporting agricultural commodities during or preceding a disaster.

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

**Summary:**

HB 2684 was summarized in [a previous edition of the Austin Newsletter.](#)

**Update:**

HB 2684 was passed by the House of Representatives with a 143-0 vote.

TFB **supports** HB 2684. (TFB 2023 Policy Book: Truck Transportation Section 164, Page 98, Lines 84-85. Truck Transportation Section 164, Page 97, Lines 23-29. Truck Transportation Section 164, Page 98, Line 67)

**[SB 1481:](#)** Relating to exercise of eminent domain authority by the Texas Facilities Commission to build a wall along this state's international border.

[Creighton, Brandon \(R\)](#)

**Summary:**

SB 1481 grants authority for the Texas Facilities Commission to acquire land through eminent domain for the placement of a border wall throughout this state’s international border with Mexico.

## **Update:**

SB 1481 was voted favorably from committee on Senate Border Security with a 3-2 vote.

TFB **opposes** SB 1481 because it grants additional eminent domain authority to the state. (TFB Policy: State's Rights Section 104, Page 3, Lines 22-24; Eminent Domain Section 151, Page 65, Lines 144-146)

---

## **Texas Farm Bureau State Legislative Team**

Austin Office Phone: [512-472-8288](tel:512-472-8288)

**Regan Beck**, Director of Government Affairs

Email: [rbeck@txfb.org](mailto:rbeck@txfb.org)

**Billy Howe**, Associate Director of Government Affairs

*Issue Areas: Natural Resources (water), Environmental Regulations, Ethics & Elections, and Appropriations*

Email: [bhowe@txfb.org](mailto:bhowe@txfb.org)

**Charlie Leal**, State Legislative Director

*Issue Areas: Right to Farm, Utility Regulation, Energy Regulation, Transportation Infrastructure, and Appropriations*

Email: [cleal@txfb.org](mailto:cleal@txfb.org)

**Joy Davis**, Associate Legislative Director

*Issue Areas: Agriculture, Taxes, Trucking Regulations, Labor, and Appropriations*

Email: [jdavis@txfb.org](mailto:jdavis@txfb.org)

**Blake Roach**, Associate Legislative Director

*Issue Areas: Land Use Regulation, Wildlife, Rural Affairs, Liability, Criminal Justice, and Appropriations*

Email: [broach@txfb.org](mailto:broach@txfb.org)

**Janelle Aello**, Legislative Assistant

Email: [jaello@txfb.org](mailto:jaello@txfb.org)

**Cahil Murchison**, Legal Intern

Email: [cmurchison@txfb.org](mailto:cmurchison@txfb.org)

**Victoria Benavides**, Legislative Intern

Email: [vbenavides1@txfb.org](mailto:vbenavides1@txfb.org)

**FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!**

If you would like immediate updates on the action in Austin, follow the Austin Legislative Staff on Twitter.

Billy Howe: [@TFBGovAff Billy](#)

Charlie Leal: [@TFB Charlie](#)

Joy Davis: [@TFB Joy](#)

Blake Roach: [@TFB Blake](#)

## Contact Us

### State Office

P.O. Box 2689  
Waco, TX 76702  
[254-772-3030](tel:254-772-3030)

### Austin Office

600 W. 12th St.  
Austin, TX 78701  
[512-472-8288](tel:512-472-8288)