



AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

Texas Farm Bureau's Weekly Newsletter for the 89th 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.

Property Rights

HB 2018: Relating to the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program
[Ashby, Trent \(R\)](#)

Summary:

HB 2018 ensures that conservation easements funded by the program enable the land to continue in agricultural use.

TFB supports HB 2018.

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Section 151, Page 63, Lines 16-20

HB 1964: Relating to equitable relief from the enforcement of certain government requirements that affect agricultural operations.
[Spiller, David \(R\)](#)

Summary:

HB 1964 would implement attorney fee provisions in the Right to Farm and Ranch statute. There are certain cities that are ignoring the statutory and constitutional protections for the Right to Farm and Ranch legislation that passed last session.

Some cities are proceeding as if nothing has changed. The bill would allow farmers and ranchers to recover their legal fees when they are required to sue a city under Chapter 251 of the Agriculture Code.

TFB supports HB 1964.

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Rights Section 151, Page 63, Lines 30-33

Transportation

SB 497: Relating to the operation of certain vehicles preceding, during, and following disasters.

[Sparks, Kevin \(R\)](#)

Summary:

SB 497 establishes provisions for the operation of certain vehicles during state emergencies/disasters.

SB 497 would temporarily waive oversized/overweight and dyed fuel requirements for vehicles carrying agricultural commodities to operate under certain conditions before, during, and following an emergency or natural disaster. This would allow farmers and ranchers to move agricultural commodities across the state swiftly and safely.

TFB supports SB 497.

TFB 2025 Policy: Truck Transportation Section 165, Page 104, Lines 89-90

HB 1402: Relating to a prohibition on the use of public money to pay for the alteration of a roadway related to high-speed rail construction.

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

Summary:

HB 1402 would prohibit state and local funds being used for a high-speed rail project in Texas.

TFB supports HB 1402.

TFB 2024 Policy: Rail Transportation Section 162, Page 96, Lines 41-44 & new policy for 2025 policy book was passed.

HB 663: Relating to limitations on the applicability of certain statutes to high-speed rail projects.

[Harrison, Brian \(R\)](#)

Summary:

HB 663 would prohibit the use of eminent domain by a private developer for a high-speed rail project in Texas.

TFB supports HB 663.

TFB 2024 Policy: Rail Transportation Section 162, Page 96, Lines 41-44 & new policy for 2025 policy book was passed.

HB 2003: Relating to provision to the Texas Department of Transportation of information regarding certain high-speed rail projects.

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

Summary:

HB 2003 would require high-speed rail developers to submit financial, construction, route, and any foreign investment information on the project to TxDOT. TxDOT is required to make this information public.

TFB supports HB 2003.

TFB 2025 Policy: Rail Transportation Section 162, Page 100, Lines 41-46

Animal Care

HB 1417 and SB 503: Relating to the establishment of an electronic registry of livestock marks and brands.

[Guillen, Ryan \(R\)](#) / [Perry, Charles \(R\)](#)

Summary:

HB 1417 and SB 503 establishes an electronic registry for livestock brands in Texas. This bill allows farmers and ranchers to electronically record their livestock marks or brands with their county clerk. County clerks would coordinate with the Texas Animal Health Commission to record the brand in the electronic registry.

The bill would help law enforcement navigate brand registration similarities throughout the state when determining the rightful owner of stray or stolen livestock.

TFB supports HB 1417 / SB 503.

TFB 2025 Policy: Livestock section 120, Page 18, Lines 133-167

Foreign Land Ownership

HB 1849: Relating to the purchase of or acquisition of title of real property by certain aliens or foreign entities; creating a criminal offense

[Hefner, Cole \(R\)](#)

Summary:

HB 1849 would ban foreign citizens/entities from certain designated countries deemed to pose a risk to national security from owning or acquiring any real property in the state.

TFB supports HB 1849

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Rights Section 151, Page 65, Lines 142-147; Real Property Rights Section 151, Page 67, Lines 261-263

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