



AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

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

February 21, 2025 | Regular Session, Issue 6 | 89th 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.

Rural Affairs

HB 2365 & SB 532: Relating to grant amounts under the young farmer grant program.

[Kitzman, Stan](#) / [Sparks, Kevin](#)

Summary:

HB 2365 and SB 532 are companion bills. The language is identical. These bills increase the funding for the Young Farmer Grant Program from a minimum of \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the maximum amount awarded from \$20,000 to \$35,000.

TFB supports HB 2365 & SB 532.

TFB 2025 Policy: Banking and Credit Section 174, Page 116, Lines 30-35.

Water

HB 2805: Relating to civil actions related to groundwater conservation districts.

[DeAyala, Emilio](#)

Summary:

HB 2805 allows a Groundwater Conservation District or a landowner to recover attorney fees based on the result of a lawsuit. This makes the current law fairer for a landowner.

Under the bill, a groundwater rights owner may seek recovery of attorney fees and costs if a district is found to have intentionally violated their rights. A district may recover attorney fees and costs if the court finds the suit filed by the groundwater

rights owner is frivolous. The court will determine the amount of attorney fees awarded.

TFB supports HB 2805.

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Rights Section 151, Page 62, Lines 2-5;
Groundwater Section 154, Page 76, Lines 140-145.

Taxes

SB 4 & SJR 2: Relating to an increase in the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district and the protection of school districts against certain losses in local revenue.

[Bettencourt, Paul](#)

Summary:

SB 4 increases the homestead exemption to \$140,000. It currently sits at \$100,000. The state will pay for any loss in revenue a school district receives as a result of the homestead exemption. This will be coupled with the 0.068 cents of compression per \$100 of value that the Senate has allocated in the budget.

Homestead exemptions remove a portion of the taxable value on a property from property taxes. The current \$100,000 homestead exemption is specifically applying to school district property taxes. Local entities are allowed to provide a separate homestead exemption of at least \$5,000 and up to 20% of the total taxable value of a homestead.

TFB supports SB 4 & SJR 2.

TFB 2025 Policy: Property Taxes Section 145, Page 41, Line 21; Property Taxes Section 145, Page 43, Lines 111-119.

Texas Farm Bureau State Legislative Team

Austin Office Phone: 512-472-8288

Regan Beck, Director of Government Affairs

Email: rbeck@txfb.org

Billy Howe, Association Director of Government Affairs

Issue Areas: Natural Resources, Environmental Regulations, Ethics & Elections, & Appropriations

Email: bhowe@txfb.org

Charlie Leal, State Legislative Director

Issue Areas: Right to Farm, Utility Regulation, Transportation Infrastructure, Trucking Regulations, Liability, & Appropriations

Email: cleal@txfb.org

Blake Roach, Associate Legislative Director

Issue Areas: Foreign Ownership, Property Rights/Land Use Regulation, Energy Regulation, Eminent Domain, Wildlife, Criminal Justice, & Appropriations

Email: broach@txfb.org

Drew Fuller, Associate Legislative Director

Issue Areas: Agriculture, Taxes, Rural Affairs, Labor, & Appropriations

Email: dfuller@txfb.org

Janelle Aello, Legislative Assistant

Email: jaello@txfb.org

Kaitlyn Cloud, Legislative Intern

Email: kcloud@txfb.org