



AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

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

February 14, 2025 | Regular Session, Issue 5 | 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.

89th Legislative Session House Committee Assignments

On Feb. 13, House Speaker Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) announced the 89th House of Representatives Committee assignments. The following committees have jurisdiction over Texas Farm Bureau priority issue areas:

House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock

Ryan Guillen, Chair
R.D. "Bobby" Guerra, Vice Chair
Briscoe Cain
Andy Hopper
Stan Kitzman
Janie Lopez
Don McLaughlin
Brent Money
Sergio Munoz

House Committee on Calendars

Todd Hunter, Chair
Toni Rose, Vice Chair
Terry Canales
Stan Gerdes
Cody Harris
Ana Hernandez
Ann Johnson
Jeff Leach
Janie Lopez
Ramon Romero, Jr.
Carl Tepper

House Committee on Natural Resources

Cody Harris, Chair
Armando Martinez, Vice Chair
Trent Ashby
Jeff Barry
Cecil Bell
Brad Buckley
Caroline Fairly
Erin Elizabeth Gamez
Josey Garcia
Mary E. Gonzalez
Ramon Romero
Denise Villalobos
Erin Zwiener

House Committee on Environmental Regulation

Brooks Landgraf, Chair
Claudia Ordaz, Vice Chair
Rafael Anchía
Keith Bell
Ben Bumgarner
Penny Morales Shaw
Tom Oliverson
Ron Reynolds
Steve Toth

House Committee on Transportation

Tom Craddick, Chair
Mary Ann Perez, Vice Chair
Terry Canales
Pat Curry
Erin Elizabeth Gomez
Caroline Harris Davilla
Cole Hefner
Marc LaHood
Mitch Little
Christina Morales
Eddie Morales
Jared Patterson
Dennis Paul

House Committee on Land & Resource Management

Gary Gates, Chair
Suleman Lalani, Vice Chair
Daniel Alders
Yvonne Davis
Gina Hinojosa
Todd Hunter
Ray Lopez
Matt Morgan
Wes Virdell

House Committee on Appropriations

Greg Bonnen, Chair
Mary E. González, Vice Chair
Jeff Barry
Nicole Collier
Mano DeAyala
Caroline Fairly
Cassandra Garcia Hernandez
Barbara Gervin-Hawkins
Vikki Goodwin
Brian Harrison
Donna Howard
Venton Jones
Stan Kitzman
Janie Lopez
J. M. Lozano
John Lujan
Christian Manuel
Armando Martinez
Tom Oliverson
Angelia Orr
Toni Rose
Lauren A. Simmons
Shelby Slawson
Carl Tepper
Denise Villalobos
Armando Walle
Gene Wu

Click [here](#) to view the full list of House Committee assignments.

Water

HB 2109: Relating to the removal of a proposed reservoir project from the State Water Plan.

[VanDeaver, Gary \(R\)](#)

Summary:

HB 2109 adds a new section to the Texas Water Code that will initiate a protocol for the removal of proposed reservoir projects from the state water plan.

This section specifies that if construction of a proposed reservoir project has not commenced within 50 years of its inclusion in any version of the state water plan, the Texas Water Development Board is required to remove it from the plan. This includes state water plans approved by the Texas Water Development Board prior to the current water planning process created in 1997.

TFB supports HB 2109.

TFB 2025 Policy: Surface Water Section 155, Page 80, Lines 82-83; Page 81, Lines 175-183; Page 81-83, Lines 186-194.

HB 2620: Relating to the inclusion of certain sources of water supply in regional water plans.

[VanDeaver, Gary \(R\)](#)

Summary:

HB 2620 would add section 16.053 to the Texas Water Code that stipulates conditions under which a regional water planning group may include a water supply source requiring eminent domain from another planning area.

The planning group must:

- Demonstrate that no new water supply sources in their area, including desalination and improvements to existing supplies, are sufficient to meet future needs.
- Demonstrate all feasible water management strategies have been considered.
- Submit a report that outlines potential negative effects on the area where the proposed water supply source is located and must include a mitigation plan for those effects.

TFB supports HB 2620.

TFB 2025 Policy: Surface Water Section 155, Page 80, Lines 82-83; Page 81, Lines 175-183; Page 81-82, Lines 186-194.

SB 718: Relating to creation of the groundwater science, research, and innovation fund to be administered by the Texas Water Development Board.

[Kolkhorst, Lois \(R\)](#)

Summary:

SB 718 is the companion bill to [HB 1400](#), authored by [Rep. Cody Harris](#).

The language is identical. SB 718 and HB 1400 would create a special fund for groundwater science, research, and innovation. The fund will allow the Texas Water Development Board to provide grants to groundwater conservation districts to enhance groundwater science that will assist in understanding local groundwater conditions, efficiency, conservation, recharge, and water quality.

The districts receiving aid must provide data and research findings to the board.

The bill mandates that at least 35% of the funds be allocated for programs or projects to smaller districts with populations of no more than 100,000 and revenues under \$250,000. Districts receiving grants may be required to provide matching funds up to 25% of the grant amount.

TFB supports SB 718 and HB 1400.

TFB 2025 Policy: Groundwater Section 154, Page 75, Lines 100-101.

Environment

SB 886: Relating to the production, sale, and use of certain agricultural products containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

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

Summary:

SB 886 is the companion bill to [HB 1674](#), authored by [Rep. Helen Kerwin](#), that was mentioned in a previous [Austin Newsletter](#).

SB 886 and HB 1674 expand the current definition of a commercial fertilizer to include biosolids, compost, wastewater residuals, industrial or sewage septage, sewage sludge, and lagoon residuals used for agricultural purposes. The inclusion of these materials as commercial fertilizers broadens the scope of what is regulated by the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service.

The bill allows the service to restrict the manufacture, sale, distribution, or application of materials containing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) that test above certain concentration levels. Manufacturers must send monthly samples for independent analysis and dispose of batches exceeding the concentration limits as hazardous waste or via incineration.

If two or more samples from the same manufacturer exceed the limits within a year, a stop-sale order will be issued, and the manufacturer's permit will be suspended until compliance is demonstrated. Random on-site sampling may occur at the manufacturer's expense during the permit suspension. Failure to submit required samples multiple times in a year leads to similar actions as in the previous point. Manufacturers are required to self-test each batch before distribution and maintain records of these tests, publishing results on their websites.

The goal of the legislation is to mitigate potential health and environmental risks associated with PFAS substances.

TFB is currently neutral on SB 886 and HB 1674.

TFB policy does not oppose the process created by SB 886 and HB 1674 to ensure municipal sludge used as fertilizer is safe. However, the levels provided may or may

not be what is scientifically proven to be safe. Therefore, TFB is neutral on the bill while gathering additional information.

TFB 2025 Policy: Waste Disposal Section 158, Page 91, Lines 128-138

Animal Care

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

Perry, Charles (R)

Summary:

SB 503 is the companion bill to HB 1417, authored by Rep. Ryan Guillen.

SB 503 and HB 1417 establish 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 and SB 503.

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

Foreign Land Ownership

Numerous foreign land ownership bills have been filed from legislators in both chambers.

We've previously highlighted SB 307, authored by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, and HB 1849, authored by Rep. Cole Hefner, in Issues 2 and 3 of the Austin Newsletter.

Other legislation, including HB 191 by Rep. David Spiller, HB 1566 by Rep. Jared Patterson, HB 2389 by Rep. Helen Kerwin, SB 103 by Sen. Bob Hall, aim to ban individuals or entities from certain adversarial countries from purchasing any real property.

Additionally, HB 402 by Rep. Briscoe Cain, HB 518 by Rep. Terri Leo-Wilson, HB 1743 by Rep. Mitch Little, and SB 1063 by Sen. Donna Campbell would specifically ban foreign ownership of agricultural land.

TFB supports the legislation listed.

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

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