



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.

Energy

SB 1754: Relating to the authority of a taxing unit to enter into an agreement to exempt from ad valorem taxation a portion of the value of property on which a renewable energy facility is located or is planned to be located.

[Birdwell, Brian](#)

Summary:

SB 1754 would eliminate all tax abatements for any new renewable energy projects.

The bill eliminates local tax abatements under Chapter 312 of the Tax Code and Chapters 380 and 381 of the Local Government Code for any new wind and solar energy projects.

TFB supports SB 1754.

TFB 2025 Policy: Renewable Energy Section 148, Page 56, Lines 74-75

Water

HB 3637 & SB 1633: Relating to the authority of a county commissioners court to adopt an exemption from ad valorem taxation by each taxing unit that taxes the property of the portion of the appraised value of a person's property.

[Troxclair, Ellen](#) / [Campbell, Donna](#)

Summary:

HB 3637 and SB 1633 are companion bills. The language is identical. These bills allow a county to exempt graywater and rainwater systems from property taxes.

This legislation would allow county commissioners courts to provide property tax exemptions for the portion of a property's appraised value due to the addition of specific water conservation systems, including rainwater harvesting and graywater systems.

[Rep. Erin Zwiener](#) also filed [HB 1256](#), which is a similar bill.

HJR 88 & SJR 60: Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize the commissioners court of a county to exempt from ad valorem taxation by each political subdivision that taxes the property portion of the assessed value.

[Zwiener, Erin](#) / [Campbell, Donna](#)

Summary:

HJR 88 and SJR 60 propose an amendment to the Texas Constitution that would allow counties to grant property tax exemptions for rainwater harvesting or graywater systems.

HB 3637 and SB 1633 are the enabling legislation.

TFB supports HB 3637, HB 1256 and HJR 88.

TFB 2025 Policy: Property Taxes Section 145, Page 48, Lines 408-411; Water Management Section 156, Page 84, Lines 53-55

Property Rights

HB 246: Relating to landowner compensation for certain damage to or on agricultural land caused by certain criminal activities.

[Guillen, Ryan](#)

Summary:

HB 246 makes changes to the program and additions to who can apply for compensation through the current Landowner Compensation Program created by SB 1133 in the 88th Texas Legislature in 2023.

The bill would allow landowners who suffer damage to or on ag land to apply/be eligible for compensation under the grant program. Compensation eligibility would also be extended to lessees. Compensation would continue to be awarded based on the damage being related to a border crime as documented by law enforcement.

TFB supports HB 246.

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Rights Section 151, Page 64, Lines 70-72;
Punishment Section 187, Page 128, Lines 15-18; Punishment Section 187, Page
128, Lines 22-26

Transportation

HB 3679: Relating to the operation of certain vehicles preceding, during, and following disasters.

[Tepper, Carl](#)

Summary:

HB 3769 is a companion bill to [SB 497](#) by [Sen. Kevin Sparks](#), which was outlined in a previous issue of the [Austin Newsletter](#). The language is identical.

HB 3769 and SB 497 establish provisions for the operation of certain vehicles during state emergencies/disasters.

The bill would create a special permit allowing oversized/overweight vehicles carrying agricultural commodities to operate under certain conditions during declared emergencies or disasters.

The legislation would also create an exemption allowing certain vehicles to use dyed motor fuel during emergencies or disasters.

TFB supports HB 3769 and SB 497.

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

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