



AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

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

March 14, 2025 | Regular Session, Issue 9 | 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 3000 and SB 1377: Relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.
[King, Ken](#) / [Perry, Charles](#)

Summary:

HB 3000 and SB 1377 would create the Rural Ambulance Service Grant Program to provide financial assistance to ambulance service providers in rural counties. It would provide \$500,000 or less for counties with a population of less than 10,000 and \$350,000 for counties with a population between 10,000-68,750.

This funding is critical for maintaining and improving ambulance availability, ensuring that EMS personnel are properly trained, and supporting the sustainability of rural EMS providers.

TFB supports HB 3000 & SB 1377.

TFB 2025 Policy: Rural Living Section 184, Page 125, Lines 18-19

Energy

HB 2678: Relating to the establishment of the Texas Advanced Nuclear Energy Authority and a Texas nuclear permitting officer.
[Darby, Drew](#)

Summary:

HB 2678 would establish a nuclear authority/committee to oversee the further advancement of the nuclear industry in Texas. The authority would utilize

institutions of higher education, industry and regulatory stakeholders to develop a strategic plan as nuclear energy and technologies grow in Texas.

The bill also creates a dedicated general revenue fund for the Texas Advanced Nuclear Innovation Fund. The fund can be used to grant awards for research and development projects and economic development projects related to advanced nuclear research, technologies and production.

TFB supports HB 2678.

TFB 2025 Policy: Energy and Fuels Section 147, Page 53, Lines 1-6 & 15-20.

SB 1150 & HB 2766: Relating to the plugging of certain inactive wells subject to the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

[Middleton, Mayes](#) / [Geren, Charlie](#)

Summary:

SB 1150 seeks to require the plugging of inactive wells that have been out of production for at least 15 years. The bill also requires the Railroad Commission to provide an annual report on the number of inactive wells in Texas.

TFB legislative staff is working with stakeholders and Sen. Middleton's office on the bill to try to reduce the number of years from 15 to closer to 5 to better align with TFB policy.

As of now, TFB is currently neutral on SB 1150 & HB 2766.

TFB 2025 Policy: Water Quality Section 157, Page 86, Lines 2-8, 23-35

HB 143: Relating to the authority of the Railroad Commission of Texas and the Public Utility Commission of Texas to address a failure by an operator to maintain an electrical power line serving a well site or certain surface facilities.

[Ken, King](#)

Summary:

HB 143 enhances the authority of the Railroad Commission and Public Utility commission to maintain and service electrical power lines and ensure safety standards to help safeguard against dangerous conditions, such as risk of wildfire.

TFB supports HB 143.

TFB 2025 Policy: Minerals Section 153, Page 73, Lines 164-166

HB 144: Relating to plans for the management and inspection of distribution poles.

[Ken, King](#)

Summary:

HB 144 requires electric providers to develop a management and inspection plan for electric poles. It mandates the inclusion of processes for regular inspections and maintenance to ensure the structural integrity and safety of distribution poles.

TFB supports HB 144.

TFB 2025 Policy: Utilities Section 149, Page 56, Lines 12-19

Water

HJR 7: Proposing a constitutional amendment to dedicate a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes to the Texas water fund.

[Harris, Cody](#)

Summary:

After the state receives \$48 billion in state sales tax revenue, HJR 7 dedicates the next \$1 billion of state sales tax revenue to the Texas Water Fund. This dedication would expire in 2035 unless it is extended by at two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

This money would go toward improving water systems across the state, making sure there is enough clean and reliable water for everyone – including agriculture.

TFB supports HJR 7.

TFB 2025 Policy: Water Management Section 156, Page 83, Lines 23-29

SJR 66: Proposing a constitutional amendment dedicating a portion of the revenue derived from state sales and use taxes and insurance premium taxes to the Texas water fund.

[Perry, Charles](#)

Summary:

SJR 66 is like the previously mentioned HJR 7. However, the difference is that SJR 66 proposes dedicating \$500 million of state sales tax revenue and \$500 million of insurance premium tax revenue to be allocated to the Texas Water Fund. Like HJR 7, the dedication would be until 2043, unless extended in 10-year increments by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

SJR 66 requires 80% of the funds dedicated to the Texas Water Fund to be used for new water supplies, which included reclaimed produced water, desalination, aquifer storage and recovery, and importing water from outside Texas.

TFB supports SJR 66.

TFB 2025 Policy: Water Management Section 156, Page 83, Lines 23-29

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