



AUSTIN NEWSLETTER

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

April 25, 2025 | Regular Session, Issue 15 | 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.

Water

SB 2658 & HB 5188: Relating to an exemption from the requirement to obtain a permit from a groundwater conservation district for certain brackish groundwater wells.

[Perry, Charles](#) / [Lopez, Janie](#)

Summary:

SB 2658 and HB 5188 exempts wells from groundwater conservation district regulations if they are producing brackish groundwater from a TWDB designated Brackish Groundwater Production Zone (BGPZ).

The bills include language to ensure the exemption requires the entity to acquire groundwater rights from landowners.

Current Status:

SB 2658 was voted favorably from Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs on April 22 with a 7-0 vote. HB 5188 was heard in House Committee on Natural Resources on April 23 and was left pending following normal committee procedures. Texas Farm Bureau testified in support of HB 5188.

TFB supports SB 2658 and HB 5188.

TFB 2025 Policy: Groundwater Section 154, Page 77, Lines 210-211; Water Management Section 156, Page 84, Lines 43-44.

Update on Previously Reported Bills

HB 43: Relating to the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority and certain programs administered by the authority.

[Kitzman, Stan](#)

This bill was summarized in a previous edition of the [Austin Newsletter](#).

Update:

HB 43 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 132-16 vote. The bill now goes to the Senate to be considered for a hearing.

HB 43 is one of Texas Farm Bureau's top priorities this session, as it is a Texas-based effort aimed at trying to help farmers and ranchers.

Representatives who voted against HB 43:

Dorazio; Harrison; Holt; Little; Lowe; Lozano; Luther; Morgan; Olcott; Pierson; Richardson; Schatzline; Schoolcraft; Swanson; Tinderholt; Toth.

TFB supports HB 43.

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

HB 2118: Relating to the issuance of oversize or overweight permits for vehicles transporting agricultural commodities during or preceding a disaster.

[Cain, Briscoe](#)

This bill was summarized in a previous edition of the [Austin Newsletter](#).

Update:

HB 2118 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 145-3 vote. The bill now goes to the Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

TFB supports HB 2118.

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

SB 1150: Relating to the plugging of and reporting on inactive wells subject to the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas; authorizing an administrative penalty.

[Middleton, Mayes](#)

This bill was summarized in a previous edition of the [Austin Newsletter](#).

Update:

SB 1150 passed the Senate with a 30-1 vote. The bill now goes to the Texas House of Representatives to be considered for a committee hearing.

TFB is neutral on SB 1150.

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

HB 119 & SB 1845: Relating to the registration as a lobbyist of persons who engage in certain lobbying activities on behalf of a foreign adversary and to prohibitions on the receipt of compensation related to those lobbying activities.
[Gerdes, Stan](#) / [Hughes, Bryan](#)

This bill was summarized in a previous edition of the [Austin Newsletter](#).

Update:

HB 119 was voted out of the House Committee on Homeland, Public Safety and Veterans' Affairs with a 11-0 vote. SB 1845 has been recommended for the Local and Uncontested Calendar.

TFB supports HB 119 & SB 1845.

TFB 2025 Policy: Texas Legislature Section 168, Page 106, Lines 79-83.

HB 4163: Relating to the applicability of certain city requirements to agricultural operations.
[Guillen, Ryan](#)

This bill was summarized in a previous edition of the [Austin Newsletter](#).

Update:

HB 4163 passed House Committee on Agriculture & Livestock with a 7-0 vote. The bill has now been set on the Local and Consent Calendar.

TFB supports HB 4163.

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Rights 151, Pg. 63, lines 30-33.

HB 3334: Relating to wildfire prevention, mitigation, and response at certain wells under the jurisdiction of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

[King, Ken](#)

This bill was summarized in a previous edition of the [Austin Newsletter](#).

Update:

HB 3334 passed the House Committee on Energy Resources with a 9-1 vote. The bill now goes to House Calendars to be considered on the House floor.

TFB supports HB 3334.

TFB 2025 Policy: Rural Living Section 184, Page 125, Lines 39-42; Water Disposal Section 158, Page 92, Lines 186-192; Water Disposal Section, Page 92, Lines 196-202

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