



# 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.

## **Taxes**

**HB 255 & HJR 31:** Relating to the definitions of certain terms for purposes of the exemption from ad valorem taxation of farm products in the hands of the producer.  
[Guillen, Ryan](#)

### **Summary:**

HB 255 changes the definition of "farm products" in the tax code from simply "livestock, poultry, and timber" to a more encompassing definition found in Section 9.102, Business & Commerce Code.

The amendment clarifies that farm products, not just livestock and poultry, are exempt from taxation while in the hands of the producer, along with family supplies for home and farm use. It also grants the Legislature the authority to define "farm products" and "in the hands of the producer" through general law, expanding the definition to include livestock, poultry, timber, and supplies used or produced in farming operations.

### **Current Status:**

HB 255 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 138-0 vote. HJR 31 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 101-2 vote. Both bills will now go to the Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

### **TFB supports HB 255 and HJR 31.**

TFB 2025 Policy: Property Taxes Section 144, Page 39, Lines 58-63.

## Update on Previously Reported Bills

**HB 1399 & HJR 99:** Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of tangible personal property consisting of animal feed held by the owner of the property for sale at retail.

[Harris, Cody](#)

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

### Update:

HB 1399 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 125-10 vote. HJR 99 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 102-5 vote. Both bills now go to the Texas Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

### TFB supports HB 1388 and HJR 99.

TFB 2025 Policy: Other Taxes Section 145, Page 52, Lines 120-121.

**HB 2018:** Relating to the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program.

[Ashby, Trent](#)

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

### Update:

HB 2018 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 142-0 vote. It now goes to the Texas Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

### TFB supports HB 2018.

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Section 151, Page 63, Lines 16-20.

**SB 1035 & HB 1964:** Relating to equitable relief from the enforcement of certain governmental requirements that affect agricultural operations.

[Sparks, Kevin](#) / [Spiller, David](#)

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

### Update:

SB 1035 was amended and passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 140-2 vote. The amendment clarifies that both statutory and constitutional right to farm and ranch protections would be eligible for the payment of attorney fees upon a favorable court decision.

SB 1035 will now go back to the Texas Senate for them to concur or go to conference on the changes, then on to the governor's desk.

**TFB supports HB 1964.**

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Rights Section 151, Page 63, Lines 30-33.

**HB 4163:** Relating to the authority of a city to impose certain governmental requirements on an agricultural operation.

[Guillen, Ryan](#)

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

**Update:**

HB 4163 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 117-18 vote. It will now go to the Texas Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

**TFB supports HB 4163.**

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

**HB 2003:** Relating to provision to the Texas Department of Transportation of information regarding certain high-speed rail projects.

[Harris, Cody](#)

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

**Update:**

HB 2003 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 127-0 vote. The bill now goes to the Texas Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

**TFB supports HB 2003.**

TFB 2025 Policy: Rail Transportation Section 162, Page 100, Lines 41-46

**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](#)

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

**Update:**

HJR 7 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 138-6 vote. It now goes to the Texas Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

**TFB supports HJR 7.**

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

**HB 119:** 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](#)

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

**Update:**

HB 119 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 132-8 vote. The bill now goes to the Texas Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

**TFB supports HB 119.**

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

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

[King, Ken](#)

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

**Update:**

HB 144 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 125-21 vote. The bill now goes to the Texas Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

**TFB supports HB 144.**

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

**SB 767 & HB 2063:** Relating to creating a database of the firefighting equipment in the state available for use in responding to wildfires.

[Sparks, Kevin](#) / [Fairly, Caroline](#)

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

**Update:**

SB 767 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 140-0 vote. SB 767 will now go back to the Senate for them to concur or go to conference on the changes, then on to the governor's desk.

**TFB supports SB 767 and HB 2063.**

TFB 2025 Policy: Rural Living Section 184, Page 125, Lines 31-39.

**HB 2669:** Relating to the establishment of a reporting and education program for the dangers of balloons to livestock.

[Guerra, Bobby](#)

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

**Update:**

HB 2669 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 96-50 vote. The bill now goes to the Texas Senate to be considered for a committee hearing.

**TFB supports HB 2669.**

TFB 2025 Policy: Environmental Issues Section 150: Page 60, lines 30-33.

**SB 2658:** Relating to the production and study of brackish groundwater.

[Perry, Charles](#)

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

**Update:**

SB 2658 passed the Texas Senate with a 29-2 vote. The bill now goes to the Texas House of Representatives to be considered for a committee hearing.

**TFB supports SB 2658.**

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

**HB 5348:** Relating to acquiring real property interests for environmental mitigation required for water projects.  
[Kitzman, Stan](#)

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

**Update:**

HB 5348 was heard in House Committee on Natural Resources on April 30. Texas Farm Bureau testified in support of the bill. Following normal committee proceedings, the bill was left pending.

**TFB supports HB 5348.**

TFB 2025 Policy: Real Property Rights Section 151, Page 63, Lines 21-23.

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