



# 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.

## **SB 25 (Make Texans Healthy Again) Passes Texas House and Senate**

SB 25 by Sen. Lois Kolkhorst (Hull) was voted out of the Texas House on Monday, May 26, and the Senate accepted the House amendments on Wednesday, May 28. The bill now heads to the governor's desk.

**As a result of Texas Farm Bureau members taking action, making hundreds of phone calls, and discussing SB 25 during grassroots Capitol visits with their legislators, an amendment by Rep. Trent Ashby was adopted on the House floor to remove atrazine and glyphosate from SB 25.**

Prior to the Ashby amendment, any food produced from crops where these herbicides were applied would trigger this labeling requirement:

"WARNING: This product contains an ingredient that is not recommended for human consumption by the appropriate authority in Australia, Canada, the European Union, or the United Kingdom."

We would be remiss without mentioning that this team effort to remove atrazine and glyphosate from SB 25 could not have been accomplished without the efforts of our legislative ag champions who fought to remove these herbicides from SB 25's labeling requirement: Sen. Kolkhorst and Reps. Ashby, VanDeaver, Guillen, Orr, Buckley, Spiller, and many more.

During the debate on the Ashby amendment, several disturbing comments were made regarding the safety of agricultural herbicides and pesticides. **To watch that debate, please click [HERE](#).**

**We would like to recognize the members who signed on as coauthors of the Ashby amendment:** Gerdes, K. Bell, Barry, Guillen, Lambert, Noble, Lujan, VanDeaver, Cortez, Buckley, Alders, J. Garcia, Orr, Raymond, Campos, Wharton, Cook, Dean, Darby, Smithee, Lozano, Canales, Harris, Frank, Kitzman, and Morgan.

The vote on the amendment was 100 for, 24 against, and 6 present but not voting.

**Yeas** — Alders; Anchía; Ashby; Barry; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Bonnen; Buckley; Bucy; Button; Campos; Canales; Capriglione; Cole; Collier; Cook; Craddick; Curry; Darby; Davis, A.; Dean; DeAyala; Dorazio; Dutton; Dyson; Fairly; Frank; Gámez; Garcia, J.; Garcia Hernandez; Gates; Gerdes; Geren; González, M.; Guerra; Guillen; Harless; Harris; Harrison; Hayes; Hefner; Hickland; Hinojosa; Holt; Howard; Hull; Hunter; Kitzman; LaHood; Lambert; Leach; Little; Lopez, J.; Lopez, R.; Louderback; Lozano; Lujan; Luther; Manuel; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; McLaughlin; McQueeney; Metcalf; Meyer; Moody; Morales, E.; Morgan; Muñoz; Noble;; Ordaz; Orr; Patterson; Paul; Perez, M.; Perez, V.; Pierson; Plesa; Raymond; Rosenthal; Schatzline; Schofield; Schoolcraft; Shaheen; Shofner; Smithee; Spiller; Talarico; Tepper; Turner; VanDeaver; Villalobos; Vo; Walle; Ward Johnson; Wharton; Wilson; Zwiener.

**Nays** — Cain; Cunningham; Flores; Gervin-Hawkins; González, J.; Goodwin; Harris Davila; Hopper; Isaac; Leo Wilson; Lowe; Money; Morales Shaw; Olcott; Oliverson; Rodríguez Ramos; Romero; Rose; Simmons; Slawson; Swanson; Thompson; Toth; Troxclair.

**Present, not voting** — Mr. Speaker; Bryant; Jones, J.; Landgraf(C); Morales, C.; Wu.

**Absent, Excused** — Cortez; Davis, Y.; Jones, V.; Kerwin; Meza; Reynolds.

**Absent** — Allen; Bernal; Bhojani; Bowers; Garcia, L.; Hernandez; Johnson; King; Lalani; Longoria; Phelan; Richardson; Tinderholt; Virdell.

Rep. Goodwin later offered an amendment to reintroduce pesticides and herbicides into the bill. The motion to table, which effectively kills the amendment and prohibits it from being reconsidered, was made and passed. The vote on the motion to table was 86 Yeas (voting to kill the amendment) and 49 Nays (voting to allow the amendment to be considered).

Again, some disturbing comments were made about the safety of ag herbicides and pesticides. **To watch the comments on the Goodwin amendment, please click [HERE](#).**

## Update on Previously Reported Bills

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

[Kitzman, Stan](#) / [Sparks, Kevin](#)

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

### Update:

HB 43 passed the Texas Senate with a 30-1 vote. The Senate Committee Substitute to HB 43 lowered funding levels and pushed the effective date to 2027. However, a Senate floor amendment restored HB 43 to reflect the version of the bill passed by the Texas House. In addition, the Senate added language to allow someone to use the TAFE funds to match funds for federal programs to increase the benefit someone could receive from the TAFE programs.

HB 43 went back to Texas House of Representatives where it concurred with the Senate amendments. The bill is now headed to the governor's desk.

The Conference Committee Report (CCR) for SB 1 (State Budget) has \$100 million dedicated to the TAFE programs in HB 43. The CCR will be voted on and is expected to pass by Sunday, June 1.

### TFB supports HB 43.

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

**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 and to provide for the allocation and use of that revenue.

[Harris, Cody](#)

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

### Update:

HJR 7 passed the Senate with a 31-0 vote. HJR 7 will now go back to the Texas House of Representatives for it to concur with the Senate amendments or request a conference committee.

HJR 7 was amended to lower the state sales tax threshold to \$46.5 billion, previously \$48 billion, to allow for an earlier or more frequent allocation of state

sales tax revenue to the Texas water fund. Another amendment was made to clarify that the use of funds cannot be for fresh groundwater projects.

**TFB supports HJR 7.**

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

**SB 7:** Relating to the oversight and financing of certain water infrastructure matters under the jurisdiction of the Texas Water Development Board.

[Perry, Charles](#) / [Harris, Cody](#)

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

**Update:**

SB 7 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 136-0 vote. It will now go back to the Texas Senate for it to concur with the House amendments or request a conference committee.

The House added an amendment championed by Sen. Perry to dedicate 50% of the new funding from HJR 7 to water supply projects. The amendment also requires brackish groundwater desalination projects to desalinate groundwater that is 3,000 total dissolved solids or higher. This ensures groundwater with less salinity that is currently used for municipal and agricultural use won't be targeted for these projects.

**TFB supports SB 7.**

TFB 2025 Policy: Surface Water Section 155: Page 78, Lines 17-21, Page 79, Lines 23-27, Page 80, Lines 126-130, Page 81, Lines 175-183 Water Management Section 156: Page 83, Lines 23-29, Page 84, Lines 39-40, Page 84, Lines 56-59, Page 84, Lines 71-76, Page 85, Lines 110-111, Page 85, Lines 139-141, Page 86, Lines 180-182.

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

[King, Ken](#)

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

**Update:**

HB 144 passed the Texas Senate with a 30-1 vote. HB 144 will now go back to the Texas House of Representatives for it to concur with the Senate amendments or request a conference committee.

**TFB supports HB 144.**

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

**HB 3000:** Relating to a grant program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in certain rural counties.

[King, Ken](#) / [Perry, Charles](#)

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

**Update:**

HB 3000 passed the Texas Senate with a 31-0 vote. HB 3000 will now go back to the Texas House of Representatives for it to concur with the Senate amendments or request a conference committee.

**TFB supports HB 3000.**

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

**SB 868:** Relating to the allocation of money appropriated to the rural volunteer fire department assistance program.

[Sparks, Kevin](#) / [King, Ken](#)

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

**Update:**

SB 868 passed the Texas House of Representatives with a 134-3 vote. It has now passed the Texas House of Representatives and Senate and will be sent to the governor.

**TFB supports SB 868.**

TFB 2025 Policy: Forestry Section 115, Page 12, Lines 14-16; Rural Living Section 184, Page 125, Lines 29-33.

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