

By: González of El Paso, Burns, Anderson,
Stucky, Buckley, et al.

H.B. No. 1958

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of livestock export-import processing facilities; creating a criminal offense.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 161, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 161.0445 to read as follows:

Sec. 161.0445. REGULATION OF EXPORT-IMPORT PROCESSING FACILITIES. (a) In this section, "export-import facility" means a public or private livestock export-import processing facility that is a land border port in this state with the capacity to receive and hold livestock and livestock products for transportation in international trade. The term includes a department facility authorized by Subchapter B, Chapter 146.

(b) The owner or person in charge of an export-import facility shall notify the commission not later than 24 hours after an animal received or held at the facility is refused export out of this state or entry into another country.

(c) The commission may require that an animal held at an export-import facility be tested or treated for a disease or pest if an authorized commission employee considers the test or treatment necessary. The commission may require the testing or treatment be performed before the animal is removed from the export-import facility. This state is not liable for the amount of any fee charged for the testing or treatment.

1 (d) The commission may, for disease or pest control
2 purposes, adopt rules necessary to implement, administer, and
3 enforce this section. The rules may include reporting and
4 recordkeeping requirements and provisions governing the movement,
5 inspection, testing, or treatment of animals.

6 (e) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly
7 moves an animal in violation of a rule adopted under this section.

8 (f) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor,
9 except that the offense is a Class B misdemeanor if it is shown on
10 the trial of the offense that the defendant has been previously
11 convicted under this section.

12 SECTION 2. Section 161.0445(b), Agriculture Code, as added
13 by this Act, applies to an owner or person in charge of an
14 export-import facility beginning on the 30th day after the
15 effective date of this Act or on a later date provided by an order
16 issued by the executive director of the Texas Animal Health
17 Commission.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.