

By: Burns, et al.

H.B. No. 2851

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the composition of the board of directors of the Texas
3 Agricultural Finance Authority and grant amounts under the young
4 farmer grant program administered by the authority.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 58.012(a), Agriculture Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) The authority is governed by a board of directors
9 composed of the commissioner of agriculture, a representative of
10 the College of Agriculture and Human Sciences [~~the director of the~~
11 ~~Institute for International Agribusiness Studies~~] at Prairie View
12 A&M University selected by the dean of the college, a
13 representative of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
14 at Tarleton State University selected by the dean of the college,
15 and 10 [~~nine~~] members appointed by the commissioner. Members of
16 the board must be appointed in the numbers specified and from the
17 following categories:

18 (1) one person who is an elected or appointed official
19 of a municipality or county;

20 (2) four persons who are knowledgeable about
21 agricultural lending practices;

22 (3) one person who is a representative of agricultural
23 businesses;

24 (4) one person who is a representative of agriculture

1 related entities, including rural chambers of commerce,
2 foundations, trade associations, institutions of higher education,
3 or other entities involved in agricultural matters; ~~and~~

4 (5) two persons who represent young farmers and the
5 interests of young farmers; and

6 (6) one person who is knowledgeable about agricultural
7 practices and graduated with an agriculture degree from a state
8 institution of higher education within the past eight years.

9 SECTION 2. Section 58.093, Agriculture Code, is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 Sec. 58.093. AMOUNT OF GRANTS. A grant under the young
12 farmer grant program may not be less than \$5,000 or more than
13 \$35,000 ~~[\$20,000]~~.

14 SECTION 3. Section 58.093, Agriculture Code, as amended by
15 this Act, applies only to a grant issued on or after the effective
16 date of this Act. A grant issued before the effective date of this
17 Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the grant is issued,
18 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

19 SECTION 4. The changes in law made by this Act in the
20 qualifications of appointed members of the board of directors of
21 the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority do not affect the
22 entitlement of an appointed member serving on the board immediately
23 before the effective date of this Act to continue to serve for the
24 remainder of the member's term. As the terms of board members
25 expire, the commissioner of agriculture shall appoint or reappoint
26 a member who has the qualifications required for a member under
27 Section 58.012(a), Agriculture Code, as amended by this Act.

1 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.