

By: Guillen, Cain, Burns, et al.

H.B. No. 4413

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a task force to make
3 recommendations for updating the livestock brand registration
4 process.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 144, Agriculture Code, is amended by
7 adding Subchapter D to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER D. UPDATED LIVESTOCK BRAND REGISTRATION TASK FORCE

9 Sec. 144.061. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION OF TASK FORCE.

10 (a) The updated livestock brand registration task force is
11 established under this subchapter to make recommendations for
12 updating the process of brand registration before the upcoming
13 brand registration renewals required in 2031.

14 (b) The Texas Animal Health Commission shall establish the
15 task force. The task force is composed of:

16 (1) two representatives from the County and District
17 Clerks Association of Texas;

18 (2) two representatives from county sheriff's
19 departments;

20 (3) two representatives from the Texas and
21 Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association;

22 (4) two representatives from the Independent
23 Cattlemen's Association of Texas;

24 (5) two representatives from the Texas Sheep and Goat

1 Raisers Association;

2 (6) two representatives from the Texas Pork Producers
3 Association;

4 (7) two representatives from the Texas A&M AgriLife
5 Extension Service; and

6 (8) two representatives from any other association or
7 department that the Texas Animal Health Commission determines
8 necessary.

9 Sec. 144.062. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The updated livestock
10 brand registration task force shall:

11 (1) develop recommendations for the implementation of
12 a digital registration method for livestock brands that:

13 (A) is standard across all counties;

14 (B) uses a database that will standardize the
15 format of information for all counties; and

16 (C) has other attributes of functionality that
17 the task force identifies as useful;

18 (2) develop recommendations for a technology to
19 identify livestock that would be standardized across the state and:

20 (A) allows the information to be read wirelessly
21 at a distance of at least 30 feet;

22 (B) interfaces with the statewide digital brand
23 database;

24 (C) is easy to implement across all producers,
25 including large scale and small scale producers;

26 (D) allows easy identification of the owners of
27 estrays livestock; and

1 (E) has other attributes of functionality that
2 the task force identifies as useful;

3 (3) develop recommendations for updating Chapter 142,
4 Agriculture Code, that:

5 (A) would simplify and speed the process of
6 reuniting estray livestock with owners;

7 (B) reduces the operational and financial burden
8 placed on law enforcement and political subdivisions associated
9 with estray livestock; and

10 (C) has other attributes of functionality that
11 the task force identifies as useful;

12 (4) develop recommendations for creating a digital
13 guide of best practices for livestock owners, political
14 subdivisions, and law enforcement agencies associated with estray
15 livestock and livestock branding and identification; and

16 (5) establish other goals or recommendations the task
17 force identifies as within its scope and worth pursuing or
18 recommending.

19 Sec. 144.063. GIFTS. The updated livestock brand
20 registration task force may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
21 donations from public and private entities to use for the purposes
22 of this subchapter.

23 Sec. 144.064. REPORTS. The updated livestock brand
24 registration task force shall prepare and submit reports based on
25 the task force's recommendations to the governor, lieutenant
26 governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs
27 of the relevant legislative committees. The task force shall

1 submit:

2 (1) a first interim report not later than December 1,

3 2024;

4 (2) a second interim report not later than December 1,

5 2026;

6 (3) a third interim report not later than December 1,

7 2028;

8 (4) a final interim report not later than December 1,

9 2030; and

10 (5) not later than December 1, 2032, a comprehensive
11 report of the task force's analysis and findings after the
12 implementation of the updated brand registration process following
13 the brand renewal in 2031.

14 Sec. 144.065. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires January
15 1, 2033.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.