

By: Guillen

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. TASK FORCE ON UPDATING LIVESTOCK BRAND
10 REGISTRATION PROCESS. (a) A task force is established under this
11 subchapter to make recommendations for updating the process of
12 brand registration before the upcoming brand registration renewals
13 required in 2032.

14 (b) The Texas Animal Health Commission shall establish a
15 task force that is composed of representatives from:

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

18 (2) county sheriff's departments;

19 (3) the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers
20 Association; and

21 (4) any other association or department that the Texas
22 Animal Health Commission determines necessary.

23 Sec. 144.062. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force
24 established under this subchapter shall:

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

3 (A) is standard across all counties;

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

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

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

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

12 (B) interfaces with the statewide digital brand
13 database;

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

16 (D) allows easy identification of the owners of
17 stray livestock; and

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

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

22 (A) would simplify and speed the process of
23 reuniting stray livestock with owners;

24 (B) reduces the operational and financial burden
25 placed on law enforcement and political subdivisions associated
26 with stray livestock; and

27 (C) has other attributes of functionality that

1 the task force identifies as useful;

2 (4) develop recommendations for creating a digital
3 guide of best practices for livestock owners, political
4 subdivisions, and law enforcement agencies associated with stray
5 cattle and livestock branding and identification; and

6 (5) establish other goals or recommendations the task
7 force identifies as within its scope and worth pursuing or
8 recommending.

9 Sec. 144.063. REPORTS. The task force established under
10 this subchapter shall prepare and submit reports based on the task
11 force's recommendations to the governor, lieutenant governor,
12 speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairs of the
13 relevant legislative committees:

14 (1) a first interim report to be submitted not later
15 than December 1, 2024;

16 (2) a second interim report to be submitted not later
17 than December 1, 2026;

18 (3) a third interim report to be submitted not later
19 than December 1, 2028;

20 (4) a final interim report to be submitted not later
21 than December 1, 2030; and

22 (5) a comprehensive report of the task force's
23 analysis and findings after the implementation of the updated brand
24 registration process to be submitted following the brand renewal in
25 2032, not later than December 1, 2032.

26 Sec. 144.064. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires January
27 1, 2033.

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