

By: Thimesch

H.B. No. 4644

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 4644:

By: Kitzman

C.S.H.B. No. 4644

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to an alert system for dangerous plant and wildlife pests
3 and diseases administered by the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
4 Service.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter K, Chapter 88, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 88.823 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 88.823. PEST, DISEASE, AND QUARANTINE ALERT SYSTEM.

9 (a) With the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture, the
10 Texas Animal Health Commission, and the Parks and Wildlife
11 Department, the extension service shall develop and implement a
12 statewide Internet-based alert system for notifications related to
13 wildlife and plant pests, diseases, and quarantines. The alert
14 system must issue notifications for:

15 (1) a confirmed case of a dangerous plant or wildlife
16 pest or disease;

17 (2) the establishment, modification, or removal of a
18 pest or disease quarantine order; and

19 (3) any compliance agreements entered into with the
20 Department of Agriculture related to a pest or disease quarantine.

21 (b) The alert system established under this section must:

22 (1) issue notifications through e-mail; and

23 (2) provide for enrollment in the alert system for
24 delivery of a system notification.

1 (c) The extension service shall enter into a memorandum of
2 understanding with the Department of Agriculture, the Texas Animal
3 Health Commission, and the Parks and Wildlife Department to ensure
4 the extension service is able to issue a required notification
5 under Subsection (a) within 72 hours of an applicable action by
6 those agencies.

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