

By: Eiland

H.B. No. 2785

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the promotion of the shrimp industry of this state; and providing a source of funding.

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

SECTION 1. Title 3, Agriculture Code, Chapter 47, is amended by renaming the Chapter and adding Subchapters A and B to read as follows:

CHAPTER 47. TEXAS OYSTER AND SHRIMP PROGRAM

SUBCHAPTER A. TEXAS OYSTER PROGRAM

Sec. 47.001. Promotion and Advertisement. (a) The department may promote and advertise the Texas oyster industry by:

(1) using current market research to develop an oyster marketing plan to increase consumption of Texas oysters;

(2) conducting a public relations campaign to create a responsible and accurate image of the Texas oyster industry;

(3) providing information, education, and training to consumers, food handlers, and restaurant personnel on safe and proper handling of oysters, for the purpose of promoting the use and consumption of oysters; and

(4) using other methods the department considers appropriate.

(b) The department, following guidance of the oyster advisory committee established under Section 47.002, may use a portion of the oyster sales fee funds provided for administrative

1 purposes.

2 Sec. 47.002. Oyster Advisory Committee. (a) The
3 commissioner shall appoint an oyster advisory committee to provide
4 guidance and direction on the programs and activities established
5 under this chapter and expenditures of the funds appropriated for
6 the purposes of this chapter.

7 (b) A member of the advisory committee may not receive
8 compensation for service on the committee, but is entitled to
9 reimbursement of expenses incurred by the member while conducting
10 the business of the committee and approved by the commissioner, as
11 provided by the General Appropriations Act. A reimbursement under
12 this subsection must be paid from revenue from fees on oyster sales
13 and related penalties imposed under Section 436.103, Health and
14 Safety Code, available for that purpose or from other revenue as
15 provided by the General Appropriations Act.

16 (c) The advisory committee shall meet and elect a
17 chairperson from its members and shall conduct other meetings it
18 considers necessary to provide guidance and direction to the
19 department.

20 (d) The advisory committee consists of the following nine
21 members:

22 (1) three members appointed by the commissioner who
23 are oyster dealers who have been certified in Texas for at least 12
24 months of each year of the three years preceding the appointment;

25 (2) two members appointed by the commissioner who are
26 oyster dealers who have been certified in Texas for at least six
27 months of each year of the three years preceding the appointment;

1 (3) one member appointed by the commissioner
2 representing consumer interests;

3 (4) one member appointed by the commissioner
4 representing grocery retail business interests;

5 (5) one member appointed by the commissioner
6 representing the restaurant industry; and

7 (6) one member appointed by the commissioner who:

8 (A) is employed by an institution of higher
9 education as a researcher or instructor; and

10 (B) specializes in the area of food science,
11 particularly seafood.

12 (e) The advisory committee shall develop its own bylaws
13 under which it shall operate. The bylaws shall stipulate that five
14 members constitute a quorum sufficient to conduct meetings and
15 business of the advisory committee.

16 (f) An advisory committee member serves a three-year term,
17 with the terms of three members expiring August 31 of each year.

18 (g) A member of the advisory committee may be reappointed to
19 the advisory committee.

20 [Sections 47.003-47.050 reserved for expansion]

21 SUBCHAPTER B. TEXAS SHRIMP MARKETING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN

22 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

23 Sec. 47.050. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

24 (1) "Program" means the Texas Shrimp Marketing
25 Assistance Program.

26 (2) "Coastal Waters" means all the salt water of this
27 state, including that portion of the Gulf of Mexico within the

1 jurisdiction of the state.

2 (3) "Shrimp marketing account" means the account in
3 the general revenue fund established under Section 77.002(b), Parks
4 and Wildlife Code.

5 Sec. 47.051. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. (a) The Texas Shrimp
6 Marketing Assistance Program is established in the Texas Department
7 of Agriculture to assist the Texas shrimp industry in promoting and
8 marketing shrimp harvested from Coastal Waters and educating the
9 public about the Texas shrimp industry and shrimp harvested from
10 Coastal Waters.

11 (b) The Commissioner, in consultation with the advisory
12 committee established under Section 47.052, shall adopt rules as
13 necessary to implement the program.

14 (c) The department may accept grants, gifts and gratuities
15 from any source, including any governmental entity, any private or
16 public corporation, and any other person in furtherance of the
17 program. Any monies received as a grant, gift or gratuity shall be
18 deposited in the shrimp marketing account.

19 (d) The program shall be funded at a minimum level of
20 \$250,000.00 per fiscal year with funds deposited into the shrimp
21 marketing account. The department may not expend more than two
22 percent (2%) of the annual program budget on out-of-state travel.

23 Sec. 47.052. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) The commissioner
24 shall appoint a shrimp advisory committee to assist the
25 Commissioner in implementing the program established under this
26 Chapter and the expenditure of funds appropriated for the purpose
27 of this chapter.

1 (b) The committee shall be composed the following nine
2 members:

3 (1) two owners of commercial bay shrimp boats;

4 (2) two owners of commercial gulf shrimp boats;

5 (3) one retail fish dealer;

6 (4) one wholesale fish dealers;

7 (5) one person employed by an institution of higher
8 education as a researcher or instructor specializing in the area of
9 food science, particularly seafood;

10 (6) one member of the seafood restaurant industry; and

11 (7) one representative of the public.

12 (b) The members of the advisory committee serve without
13 compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the
14 direct performance of their duties upon approval of the
15 Commissioner.

16 (c) An advisory committee member serves a three-year term,
17 with the terms of three members expiring August 31 of each year.
18 The Commissioner may reappoint a member to the advisory committee.

19 (d) The members of the advisory committee shall elect a
20 presiding officer from among the members and adopt rules governing
21 the operation of the committee. The rules shall specify that five
22 members of the committee constitute a quorum sufficient to conduct
23 the meetings and business of the committee.

24 (e) The advisory committee shall meet as necessary, but at
25 least once a calendar, year to provide guidance to the Commissioner
26 in establishing and implementing the program.

27 Sec. 47.053 PROGRAM STAFF. (a) The Commissioner shall

1 employ one or more persons as employees of the department to staff
2 the Program; and

3 (b) unless otherwise expressly provided by the legislature,
4 the source of funding for the employee(s) shall be monies generated
5 from the program, including the license surcharge authorized
6 pursuant to Section 77.002, Parks and Wildlife Code.

7 Sec. 47.054. PROMOTION, MARKETING, AND EDUCATION. The
8 program shall promote and advertise the Texas shrimp industry by:

9 (a) developing and maintaining a database of Texas shrimp
10 wholesalers that sell shrimp harvested from Coastal Waters;

11 (b) operating a toll-free telephone number to:

12 (1) receive inquiries from persons who wish to
13 purchase a particular type of shrimp harvested from Coastal Waters;
14 and

15 (2) make information about the Texas shrimp industry
16 available to the public;

17 (d) developing a shrimp industry marketing plan to increase
18 the consumption of shrimp harvested from Coastal Waters;

19 (e) educating the public about shrimp harvested from
20 Coastal Waters by providing publicity about the information in the
21 program's database to the public and making the information
22 available to the public through the department's toll-free
23 telephone number and electronically available through the
24 Internet;

25 (f) promoting the Texas shrimp industry; and

26 (g) promoting and marketing, and educating consumers about
27 the shrimp harvested from Coastal Waters using any other method the

1 Commissioner determines is appropriate.

2 [Sections 47.055-47.099 reserved for expansion]

3 SECTION 2. Title 5, Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 77, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 Sec. 77.002. License Fees. (a) License fees provided in
6 this chapter are a privilege tax on catching, buying, selling,
7 unloading, transporting, or handling shrimp within the
8 jurisdiction of this state.

9 (b) The shrimp marketing account in an account in the
10 general revenue fund that shall be appropriated to the Texas
11 Department of Agriculture solely for the purpose of the Texas
12 Shrimp Marketing Assistance Program established under subchapter
13 B, Chapter 47, Agriculture Code. The account consists of money
14 deposited to the account under this section. The account is exempt
15 from the application of Section 403.095, Government Code.

16 (c) In addition to fee increases the department is
17 authorized to make under this code, the department shall increase
18 by 10% the fee as of September 1, 2003 for the following licenses
19 and shall deposit the amount of the increase to the credit of the
20 shrimp marketing account:

21 (1) a commercial bay shrimp boat license issued under
22 Section 77.031;

23 (2) a commercial bait-shrimp boat license issued under
24 Section 77.033;

25 (3) a commercial gulf shrimp boat license issued under
26 Section 77.035; and

27 (4) a commercial shrimp boat captain's license issued

1 under Section 77.0351.

2 (d) Money in the shrimp marketing account may be used only
3 to implement, maintain and conduct, including program staff
4 employees, the Texas Shrimp Marketing Assistance Program, created
5 pursuant to Subchapter G of this Title 5. The Texas Department of
6 Agriculture may allocate not more than fifty thousand dollars per
7 fiscal year of the money in the account to cover administrative and
8 personnel costs, including in state travel, of the Texas Department
9 of Agriculture associated with the program.

10 (e) The department shall deposit, at the end of each
11 quarter, to the credit of the shrimp marketing account fees
12 received under Section 77.002 for use by the Texas Department of
13 Agriculture to conduct and operate the Texas Shrimp Marketing
14 Assistance Program, created pursuant to Subchapter G of this Title
15 5.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.