

By: Wentworth

S.B. No. 1700

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the administration of the weather modification and control grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 20.001, Agriculture Code, as added by Chapter 376, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 20.001. FINDINGS. The legislature finds that weather modification and control activities may have a significant impact on Texas agriculture. The legislature further finds that the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation [~~Agriculture~~] is the proper state agency to administer grants to political subdivisions for weather modification and control activities.

SECTION 2. Section 20.002, Agriculture Code, as added by Chapter 376, Acts of the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 20.002. DEFINITIONS [~~DEFINITION~~]. In this chapter:

(1) "Department" means the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

(2) "Weather [~~,"weather~~] modification and control" means changing or controlling, or attempting to change or control, by artificial methods the natural development of atmospheric cloud forms or precipitation forms that occur in the troposphere.

SECTION 3. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

1           (b) The Department of Agriculture and the Texas Department  
2 of Licensing and Regulation shall adopt a memorandum of  
3 understanding not later than October 1, 2003, that provides for the  
4 transfer of the weather modification and control grant program  
5 under Chapter 20, Agriculture Code, as added by Chapter 376, Acts of  
6 the 77th Legislature, Regular Session, 2001, from the Department of  
7 Agriculture to the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.  
8 The memorandum of understanding shall prescribe the manner by which  
9 the transfer shall be accomplished and provide for the transfer to  
10 the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation of funds  
11 appropriated to the Department of Agriculture and other money  
12 received by the department under Chapter 20, Agriculture Code, for  
13 the administration of the grant program as well as the transfer of  
14 any files, records, equipment, property, and personnel necessary to  
15 accomplish the transfer. The transfer required by this subsection  
16 must be completed not later than January 1, 2004.