

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
80R7957 BEF-D

S.B. 866
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S/C on Agriculture, Rural Affairs & Coastal Resources
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

In 2005, organic food sales hit twenty billion dollars in the United States. Currently, Texas is not in the top 10 states in terms of organic production; however, there is an opportunity for Texas to expand the production of organic food in the state. The formation of an Organic Industry Advisory Board could assist the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) in supporting this industry.

While TDA has a National Organic Standards accredited program to certify organic products, TDA has no programs or activities to specifically monitor, promote, or expand the organic industry in Texas.

As proposed, S.B. 866 creates a Texas Organic Industry Advisory Board at TDA.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to any state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Title 3, Agriculture Code, by adding Chapter 50C, as follows:

CHAPTER 50C. TEXAS ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD

Sec. 50C.001. DEFINITION. Defines "board."

Sec. 50C.002. COMPOSITION. (a) Sets forth the composition of the 11-member Texas Organic Agricultural Industry Advisory Board (board) to be appointed by the commissioner of agriculture (commissioner).

(b) Requires the board to elect a presiding officer from its members.

(c) Provides for the terms of the board members. Authorizes members to be reappointed at the end of a term.

(d) Provides that Chapter 2110 (State Agency Advisory Committees), Government Code, does not apply to the size, composition, or duration of the board.

(e) Provides that a state officer or employee's service on the board is an additional duty of the member's office or employment. Provides that members of the board are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

Sec. 50C.003. DUTIES. Requires the board to assist the Department of Agriculture (TDA) in certain actions and to review and provide guidance on rules impacting the organic agricultural products industry in Texas.

Sec. 50C.004. MEETINGS. Requires the board to meet at least once annually and authorizes the board to meet at other times considered necessary by the commissioner.

Sec. 50C.005. STAFF. Provides that the board is administratively attached to TDA. Requires TDA to provide the board with the staff necessary to carry out the boards duties under this chapter.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2007.