

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Organic Agricultural Industry Advisory Board.

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

SECTION 1. Title 3, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Chapter 50C to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50C. TEXAS ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD

Sec. 50C.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "board" means the Texas Organic Agricultural Industry Advisory Board.

Sec. 50C.002. COMPOSITION. (a) The board is composed of the following 13 members appointed by the commissioner:

(1) four members who produce organic agricultural products;

(2) two members who are retail sellers of organic agricultural products;

(3) one member who distributes organic agricultural products;

(4) one member who processes organic agricultural products;

(5) one member who represents a Texas trade association that represents the organic agricultural industry;

(6) one member who represents the Texas Cooperative Extension;

(7) one technical advisor member who is employed by an

1 institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003,
2 Education Code, or government agency as a researcher or instructor:

3 (A) in the field of organic agriculture products
4 or sustainable agriculture; or

5 (B) who has technical expertise in soil biology,
6 agronomy, entomology, horticulture, or organic farming systems;

7 (8) one member who represents the public; and

8 (9) one representative from the department.

9 (b) The board shall elect a presiding officer from among its
10 members.

11 (c) Members of the board serve staggered terms of four
12 years, with either six or seven members' terms, as applicable,
13 expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year. Members may be
14 reappointed at the end of a term.

15 (d) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
16 size, composition, or duration of the board.

17 (e) Service on the board by a state officer or employee is an
18 additional duty of the member's office or employment. Members of
19 the board are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of
20 expenses.

21 Sec. 50C.003. DUTIES. The board shall:

22 (1) assist the department in:

23 (A) assessing the state of the organic
24 agricultural products industry in this state;

25 (B) developing recommendations to the
26 commissioner and the legislature to promote and expand the organic
27 agricultural products industry in this state;

1 (C) identifying and obtaining grants and gifts to
2 promote and expand the organic agricultural products industry in
3 this state; and

4 (D) developing a statewide organic agricultural
5 products education and awareness campaign that:

6 (i) utilizes the Texas Cooperative
7 Extension's educational programs and channels of distribution,
8 when appropriate;

9 (ii) is consistent with Sections 2.002 and
10 12.002 and any department policies relating to the promotion of
11 Texas agriculture and agricultural products; and

12 (iii) does not refer negatively to any
13 other agriculture process that is used or to any agricultural
14 product that is grown or sold in this state; and

15 (2) review and provide guidance on rules impacting the
16 organic agricultural products industry in this state.

17 Sec. 50C.004. MEETINGS. The board shall meet at least once
18 each year and may meet at other times considered necessary by the
19 commissioner.

20 Sec. 50C.005. STAFF. The board is administratively
21 attached to the department. The department shall provide the board
22 with the staff necessary to carry out its duties under this chapter.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2345 was passed by the House on April 12, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2345 on May 21, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 140, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2345 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 17, 2007, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor