

1-1 By: Anderson, Aycok (Senate Sponsor - Watson) H.B. No. 2345
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 16, 2007;
1-3 April 17, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Natural Resources; May 14, 2007, reported adversely, with
1-5 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9,
1-6 Nays 0; May 14, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2345 By: Hegar

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to the creation of the Texas Organic Agricultural Industry
1-11 Advisory Board.

1-12 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-13 SECTION 1. Title 3, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding
1-14 Chapter 50C to read as follows:

1-15 CHAPTER 50C. TEXAS ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY ADVISORY BOARD

1-16 Sec. 50C.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "board" means
1-17 the Texas Organic Agricultural Industry Advisory Board.

1-18 Sec. 50C.002. COMPOSITION. (a) The board is composed of the
1-19 following 13 members appointed by the commissioner:

1-20 (1) four members who produce organic agricultural
1-21 products;

1-22 (2) two members who are retail sellers of organic
1-23 agricultural products;

1-24 (3) one member who distributes organic agricultural
1-25 products;

1-26 (4) one member who processes organic agricultural
1-27 products;

1-28 (5) one member who represents a Texas trade
1-29 association that represents the organic agricultural industry;

1-30 (6) one member who represents the Texas Cooperative
1-31 Extension;

1-32 (7) one technical advisor member who is employed by an
1-33 institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003,
1-34 Education Code, or government agency as a researcher or instructor:

1-35 (A) in the field of organic agriculture products
1-36 or sustainable agriculture; or

1-37 (B) who has technical expertise in soil biology,
1-38 agronomy, entomology, horticulture, or organic farming systems;

1-39 (8) one member who represents the public; and

1-40 (9) one representative from the department.

1-41 (b) The board shall elect a presiding officer from among its
1-42 members.

1-43 (c) Members of the board serve staggered terms of four
1-44 years, with either six or seven members' terms, as applicable,
1-45 expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year. Members may be
1-46 reappointed at the end of a term.

1-47 (d) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
1-48 size, composition, or duration of the board.

1-49 (e) Service on the board by a state officer or employee is an
1-50 additional duty of the member's office or employment. Members of
1-51 the board are not entitled to compensation or reimbursement of
1-52 expenses.

1-53 Sec. 50C.003. DUTIES. The board shall:

1-54 (1) assist the department in:

1-55 (A) assessing the state of the organic
1-56 agricultural products industry in this state;

1-57 (B) developing recommendations to the
1-58 commissioner and the legislature to promote and expand the organic
1-59 agricultural products industry in this state;

1-60 (C) identifying and obtaining grants and gifts to
1-61 promote and expand the organic agricultural products industry in
1-62 this state; and

1-63 (D) developing a statewide organic agricultural

2-1 products education and awareness campaign that:
2-2 (i) utilizes the Texas Cooperative
2-3 Extension's educational programs and channels of distribution,
2-4 when appropriate;
2-5 (ii) is consistent with Sections 2.002 and
2-6 12.002 and any department policies relating to the promotion of
2-7 Texas agriculture and agricultural products; and
2-8 (iii) does not refer negatively to any
2-9 other agriculture process that is used or to any agricultural
2-10 product that is grown or sold in this state; and
2-11 (2) review and provide guidance on rules impacting the
2-12 organic agricultural products industry in this state.
2-13 Sec. 50C.004. MEETINGS. The board shall meet at least once
2-14 each year and may meet at other times considered necessary by the
2-15 commissioner.
2-16 Sec. 50C.005. STAFF. The board is administratively
2-17 attached to the department. The department shall provide the board
2-18 with the staff necessary to carry out its duties under this chapter.
2-19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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