

BILL ANALYSIS

H.B. 1444
By: Aycock
Agriculture & Livestock
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

The Texas deer breeding industry contributes over \$650 million to the Texas economy and supports over 7,000 mostly rural Texas jobs, according to a May 2007 study by Texas A&M University's Agricultural and Food Policy Center on the economic impact of the Texas deer breeding industry. The study ranks the industry as sixth in agriculture production in Texas, exceeding the economic contributions of rice or citrus. The center reports that a single deer breeding operation contributes over \$130,000 in direct expenditures, generating over \$225,000 in economic activity from the industry and those that supply it, as well as contributing an estimated \$125,000 of added value in the form of employee compensation, proprietary income, other proprietor income, and indirect business taxes. The center also safely assumes that most of those expenditures go to the local community for the average breeding only operation.

H.B. 1444 amends the Agriculture Code to include holders of white-tailed and mule deer breeder permits in the list of businesses eligible to be considered for financial assistance from the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority, which was created to assist individuals who wish to establish or enhance their farm or ranch operation or to establish an agriculture-related business in rural areas.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

H.B. 1444 amends the Agriculture Code to add a business that holds a deer breeder's permit to the definition of "agricultural business" under provisions of the Texas Agricultural Finance Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2009.