

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

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

SECTION 1. Title 7, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 776 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 776. TEXAS INVASIVE SPECIES COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Sec. 776.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Committee" means the Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee.

(2) "Invasive species" means a species that is not native to an ecosystem and whose introduction to the ecosystem causes or has been demonstrated to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harm to human health. Humans, domestic and exotic livestock, and non-harmful exotic organisms are not invasive species.

Sec. 776.002. MEMBER AGENCIES. (a) The member agencies of the committee are:

(1) the Department of Agriculture;

(2) the Parks and Wildlife Department;

(3) the State Soil and Water Conservation Board;

(4) the Texas AgriLife Extension Service;

(5) the Texas Forest Service;

(6) the Texas Water Development Board; and

1           (7) any other state agency added to the committee  
2 under Subsection (b).

3           (b) On the request of a state agency that has an interest in  
4 controlling invasive species, the member agencies listed in  
5 Subsections (a)(1)-(6) by unanimous agreement may add the agency to  
6 the committee.

7           Sec. 776.003. REPRESENTATIVES. (a) The committee is  
8 composed of one representative of each member agency. If an  
9 agency's representative is unable to attend a committee meeting or  
10 otherwise perform the representative's duties, the agency's  
11 alternate representative shall serve in the representative's  
12 place.

13           (b) The administrative head of each member agency:

14                 (1) shall designate one individual to serve as the  
15 agency's representative on the committee and one individual to  
16 serve as alternate representative;

17                 (2) may change the designated representative or  
18 alternate representative at will; and

19                 (3) after designating or changing the representative  
20 or alternate representative, shall promptly notify the committee in  
21 writing of the name and position of the new representative or  
22 alternate representative.

23           (c) Service on the committee by a state officer or employee  
24 is an additional duty of the representative's office or employment.

25           Sec. 776.004. DUTIES. (a) The committee shall:

26                 (1) serve as a catalyst for cooperation between state  
27 agencies in the area of invasive species control;

1           (2) facilitate governmental efforts, including  
2 efforts of local governments and special districts, to prevent and  
3 manage invasive species;

4           (3) make recommendations to state agencies regarding  
5 research, technology transfer, and management actions related to  
6 invasive species control;

7           (4) facilitate the exchange of information so that  
8 each member agency is informed of committee plans, recommendations,  
9 and proposals for research, education, and implementation of  
10 activities to:

11                 (A) prevent, detect, assess, monitor, contain,  
12 and control or eradicate invasive species; and

13                 (B) reduce environmental and economic threats  
14 and threats to human health from invasive species;

15           (5) provide a forum for developing coordinated  
16 interagency strategies and policies for invasive species control;

17           (6) provide technical information and input to  
18 regional and national invasive species control coordination  
19 efforts, including the National Invasive Species Management Plan;

20           (7) facilitate the review of committee technical  
21 decisions and work product by specialists and interested persons;  
22 and

23           (8) report as needed to the governor, lieutenant  
24 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives on committee  
25 plans, work product, and accomplishments.

26           (b) Each member agency of the committee shall:

27                 (1) coordinate the agency's invasive species control

activities with the committee and relevant coordinating bodies,  
including the National Invasive Species Council;

(2) share with the committee the agency's technical  
expertise related to invasive species;

(3) advise the committee of known invasive species  
threats to natural and agricultural resources; and

(4) cooperate, to the extent allowed by law, in  
initiatives to obtain appropriations and grants for invasive  
species control.

Sec. 776.005. BYLAWS. (a) The committee shall adopt bylaws  
governing the committee's operations.

(b) The bylaws:

(1) must provide a procedure to periodically elect one  
representative as committee chair;

(2) must provide a procedure to call committee  
meetings;

(3) must require the committee to meet at least  
annually; and

(4) may provide for the creation of subcommittees and  
advisory committees.

Sec. 776.006. STAFF; ATTACHMENT. (a) The committee is  
administratively attached to the State Soil and Water Conservation  
Board.

(b) The State Soil and Water Conservation Board shall  
provide one full-time equivalent employee to serve as committee  
coordinator.

Sec. 776.007. SUNSET PROVISION. (a) The committee is

1 subject to Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act). Unless continued in  
2 existence as provided by that chapter, the committee is abolished  
3 and this chapter expires September 1, 2013.

4 (b) To the extent that Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act) places  
5 a duty on a state agency subject to review under that chapter, the  
6 State Soil and Water Conservation Board shall perform the duty as it  
7 relates to the committee.

8 SECTION 2. Not later than November 1, 2009, the  
9 administrative head of each member agency of the Texas Invasive  
10 Species Coordinating Committee shall designate the agency's  
11 initial representative and alternate representative as provided by  
12 Section 776.003, Government Code, as added by this Act.

13 SECTION 3. Not later than February 1, 2010, the Texas  
14 Invasive Species Coordinating Committee shall hold its first  
15 meeting and adopt bylaws as required by Section 776.005, Government  
16 Code, as added by this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

\_\_\_\_\_  
Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 865 was passed by the House on April 22, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 149, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 865 on May 14, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 865 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 7, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor