

1-1 By: King of Zavala (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 1908
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 14, 2009;
1-3 April 15, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 4, 2009, reported adversely,
1-5 with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5,
1-6 Nays 0; May 4, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1908 By: Hinojosa

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

1-10 relating to the safety of the fresh fruit and vegetables produced in
1-11 this state.

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

1-13 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that:

1-14 (1) the agricultural industry is a vital part of this
1-15 state's economy, annually contributing \$103 billion, or 9.2 percent
1-16 of the gross state product, and is the state's second largest
1-17 resource-based industry, with one in seven Texans being employed in
1-18 some segment of the agricultural industry;

1-19 (2) food safety must be a top state priority because an
1-20 accidental or deliberate contamination of food or crops could be
1-21 detrimental to the state's economy and would undermine consumer
1-22 confidence in the integrity of food safety in this state;

1-23 (3) the growing and processing of fresh fruits and
1-24 vegetables is crucial to this state, and since September 11, 2001,
1-25 awareness of the threat of contamination of those products has
1-26 increased; and

1-27 (4) this state should increase awareness of food
1-28 safety among its growers and packers of fresh fruits and vegetables
1-29 to avoid disastrous events.

1-30 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 91, Agriculture Code, is
1-31 amended by adding Section 91.009 to read as follows:

1-32 Sec. 91.009. COORDINATION OF FOOD SAFETY. (a) The
1-33 department is the lead agency for education and training and shall
1-34 assist the fresh fruit and vegetable industries with food safety
1-35 issues and may provide assistance to federal agencies in their
1-36 implementation of voluntary guidelines relating to sound
1-37 agricultural practices.

1-38 (b) The department shall coordinate, plan, and approve
1-39 training and awareness programs for producers and packers of fresh
1-40 fruits and vegetables. A program under this subsection must inform
1-41 and educate producers and packers regarding:

1-42 (1) sound agricultural practices;
1-43 (2) proper food handling procedures;
1-44 (3) the prevention of accidental or deliberately
1-45 planned outbreaks of disease; and
1-46 (4) the enhancement of overall food safety.

1-47 (c) The department shall coordinate the planning and
1-48 implementation of programs required by Subsection (b) with:

1-49 (1) colleges and universities in this state;
1-50 (2) the Texas AgriLife Extension Service;
1-51 (3) Texas AgriLife Research;
1-52 (4) the Department of State Health Services; and
1-53 (5) private industry.

1-54 (d) The department may adopt rules to implement this
1-55 section. In the development of rules for the certification of
1-56 approved food safety curriculum or training, the department shall
1-57 consult and coordinate with the Department of State Health
1-58 Services.

1-59 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-60 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-61 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-62 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-63 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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