

By: Hamilton

H.B. No. 2239

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to transferring the Office of Rural Community Affairs to the Department of Agriculture and abolishing the board of the office.

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

SECTION 1. Section 487.001, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 487.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Department of Agriculture [~~board of the Office of Rural Community Affairs~~].

(2) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of agriculture.

(3) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

(4) "Office" means the Office of Rural Community Affairs within the department.

SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 487, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 487.003 and 487.004 to read as follows:

Sec. 487.003. OFFICE OF RURAL COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. The Office of Rural Community Affairs is established within the department.

Sec. 487.004. REFERENCE IN LAW. A reference in this chapter or other law to the board of the Office of Rural Community Affairs means the commissioner.

SECTION 3. The following laws are repealed:

1 (1) Sections 487.002, 487.021, 487.022, 487.023,
2 487.024, 487.025, 487.029, 487.058, and 487.352, Government Code;
3 and

4 (2) Section 487.051(b), Government Code, as added by
5 Chapter 1241 (H.B. 2542), Acts of the 80th Legislature, Regular
6 Session, 2007.

7 SECTION 4. (a) The Office of Rural Community Affairs is
8 abolished as an independent agency and created as a program in the
9 Department of Agriculture. The board of the Office of Rural
10 Community Affairs is abolished.

11 (b) The validity of an action taken by the Office of Rural
12 Community Affairs or its board before either is abolished under
13 Subsection (a) of this section is not affected by the abolishment.

14 SECTION 5. On September 1, 2009:

15 (1) the executive director of the Office of Rural
16 Community Affairs becomes the executive director of the Office of
17 Rural Community Affairs in the Department of Agriculture;

18 (2) an employee of the Office of Rural Community
19 Affairs becomes an employee of the Office of Rural Community
20 Affairs in the Department of Agriculture;

21 (3) a reference in law to the Office of Rural Community
22 Affairs means the Office of Rural Community Affairs in the
23 Department of Agriculture;

24 (4) all money, contracts, leases, rights, and
25 obligations of the Office of Rural Community Affairs are
26 transferred to the Office of Rural Community Affairs in the
27 Department of Agriculture;

1 (5) all property, including records, in the custody of
2 the Office of Rural Community Affairs becomes the property of the
3 Office of Rural Community Affairs in the Department of Agriculture;
4 and

5 (6) all funds appropriated by the legislature to the
6 Office of Rural Community Affairs are transferred to the Office of
7 Rural Community Affairs in the Department of Agriculture.

8 SECTION 6. A function or activity performed by the Office of
9 Rural Community Affairs is transferred to the Office of Rural
10 Community Affairs in the Department of Agriculture as provided by
11 this Act.

12 SECTION 7. The Office of Rural Community Affairs and the
13 Department of Agriculture shall establish a transition plan for the
14 transfer described in Section 5 of this Act.

15 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.