

1-1 By: McReynolds, Gonzalez Toureilles, Guillen H.B. No. 2914
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Nichols)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 16, 2009;
1-4 April 27, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-5 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 19, 2009, reported favorably by
1-6 the following vote: Yeas 3, Nays 0; May 19, 2009, sent to
1-7 printer.)

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

1-10 relating to the establishment of a fuel mitigation pilot grant
1-11 program for fire departments.

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

1-13 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 88, Education Code, is
1-14 amended by adding Section 88.121 to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 88.121. FUEL MITIGATION PILOT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The
1-16 Texas Forest Service, with the advice of the advisory committee
1-17 appointed under Section 614.073, Government Code, may:

1-18 (1) establish and administer a pilot program under
1-19 this section to provide grants to fire departments to assist with
1-20 the costs of fuel mitigation; and

1-21 (2) adopt rules consistent with this section as
1-22 necessary to implement this section, including rules establishing:

1-23 (A) reasonable criteria and qualifications for
1-24 the distribution of grant money under the pilot program; and

1-25 (B) a procedure for reporting and processing
1-26 requests for grant money under the pilot program.

1-27 (b) The Texas Forest Service may solicit and accept gifts,
1-28 grants, and donations from any public or private source for
1-29 purposes of this section.

1-30 (c) If the Texas Forest Service establishes a pilot program
1-31 under this section, the director shall, not later than December 1,
1-32 2010, submit a written report to the legislature on the
1-33 effectiveness of the pilot program in mitigating fuel hazards.

1-34 (d) Notwithstanding Section 614.075(b), Government Code,
1-35 money in the rural volunteer fire department insurance fund may
1-36 also be used for purposes of the pilot program under this section.

1-37 (e) This section expires September 1, 2011.

1-38 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-39 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-40 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-41 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-42 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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