

1-1 By: Miles (Senate Sponsor - Estes) H.B. No. 2997
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 12, 2011;
1-3 May 12, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Agriculture and Rural Affairs; May 23, 2011, reported favorably by
1-5 the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 1; May 23, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the creation and funding of the urban farming pilot
1-9 program and the creation of the Select Committee on Urban Farming.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Title 3, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding
1-12 Chapter 50E to read as follows:

1-13 CHAPTER 50E. URBAN FARMING PILOT PROGRAM AND SELECT COMMITTEE

1-14 SUBCHAPTER A. URBAN FARMING PILOT PROGRAM

1-15 Sec. 50E.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "program" means
1-16 the urban farming pilot program established under this chapter.

1-17 Sec. 50E.002. ESTABLISHMENT OF URBAN FARMING PILOT PROGRAM.

1-18 (a) The department by rule shall develop and implement an urban
1-19 farming pilot program through which the department will award
1-20 grants if funding for grants is available to urban farmers in this
1-21 state to establish new urban farms and expand existing urban farms.

1-22 (b) The department by rule shall define "urban farm" and
1-23 "urban farmer" for purposes of this chapter.

1-24 (c) The department may operate the program in an area
1-25 designated as an enterprise zone under Chapter 2303, Government
1-26 Code, in a municipality with a population of 500,000 or more.

1-27 Sec. 50E.003. USE OF AWARDED GRANT MONEY. A grant recipient
1-28 may use grant money awarded under the program only to cover costs
1-29 that are approved by the department.

1-30 Sec. 50E.004. GRANT RECIPIENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. A
1-31 grant recipient shall report information related to the program to
1-32 the department in the form and manner and at regular intervals as
1-33 prescribed by the department.

1-34 Sec. 50E.005. EVALUATION BY DEPARTMENT. The department
1-35 shall monitor and periodically evaluate:

1-36 (1) the performance of each grant recipient under the
1-37 program;

1-38 (2) how each grant recipient uses the grant money
1-39 awarded under the program; and

1-40 (3) the effect of the program on the grant recipient
1-41 and on the residents of the municipality in which the grant
1-42 recipient uses grant money.

1-43 Sec. 50E.006. FUNDING. (a) The department may seek,
1-44 accept, and spend any funds received through grants or donations
1-45 from public or private sources for the purposes of the program.

1-46 (b) The department is not required to implement the program
1-47 unless the department has sufficient funding from a source other
1-48 than an appropriation of general revenue.

1-49 (c) State money may not be used for purposes of the program.

1-50 [Sections 50E.007-50E.010 reserved for expansion]

1-51 SUBCHAPTER B. SELECT COMMITTEE ON URBAN FARMING

1-52 Sec. 50E.011. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "committee"
1-53 means the Select Committee on Urban Farming.

1-54 Sec. 50E.012. COMPOSITION. (a) The Select Committee on
1-55 Urban Farming is composed of:

1-56 (1) three members appointed by the president of
1-57 Prairie View A&M University;

1-58 (2) three members appointed by the board of regents of
1-59 The Texas A&M University System; and

1-60 (3) three members appointed by the director of the
1-61 Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

1-62 (b) The committee shall elect a presiding officer from among
1-63 its members.

1-64 Sec. 50E.013. COMPENSATION. A person is not entitled to

2-1 compensation or reimbursement for serving as a committee member.

2-2 Sec. 50E.014. COMMITTEE DUTIES. (a) The committee shall:

2-3 (1) meet at the call of the presiding officer; and

2-4 (2) conduct an interim study and make recommendations

2-5 to the legislature regarding:

2-6 (A) the performance and operation of the program;

2-7 (B) the continuation, elimination, or expansion

2-8 of the program;

2-9 (C) urban farming trends, including farming in

2-10 sustainable living communities, cooperative crop production, and

2-11 vertical integration farming;

2-12 (D) capacity for urban farming in this state; and

2-13 (E) potential effects of urban farming on the

2-14 population of this state and on enterprise zones.

2-15 (b) The committee may request the assistance of state

2-16 agencies, departments, or offices to carry out its duties.

2-17 Sec. 50E.015. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2012, the

2-18 committee shall submit a report based on its findings to:

2-19 (1) the governor;

2-20 (2) the lieutenant governor; and

2-21 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives.

2-22 [Sections 50E.016-50E.020 reserved for expansion]

2-23 SUBCHAPTER C. EXPIRATION OF CHAPTER

2-24 Sec. 50E.021. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires and the

2-25 committee is abolished September 1, 2013.

2-26 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2012, the

2-27 Department of Agriculture shall implement the urban farming pilot

2-28 program established under Chapter 50E, Agriculture Code, as added

2-29 by this Act.

2-30 (b) Not later than October 1, 2011, the appointing entities

2-31 listed in Section 50E.012, Agriculture Code, as added by this Act,

2-32 shall make the appointments required by that section.

2-33 (c) Not later than October 15, 2011, the commissioner of

2-34 agriculture shall call the first meeting of the Select Committee on

2-35 Urban Farming to permit the committee to elect a presiding officer

2-36 as required by Section 50E.012(b), Agriculture Code, as added by

2-37 this Act.

2-38 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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