

By: Villarreal

H.B. No. 1116

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Native Seed Competitive Grant Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle H, Title 6, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Chapter 398 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 398. TEXAS NATIVE SEED COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 398.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "General academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(2) "Grant program" means the Texas native seed competitive grant program implemented under Section 398.002.

(3) "Native seed" means a seed derived from a plant in a particular region or ecosystem native to this state not later than the 16th century.

Sec. 398.002. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The department shall design and implement a competitive grant program for general academic teaching institutions to support the development of native seeds for restoration of wildlife habitat, roadsides, and energy exploration sites.

(b) The department shall require a recipient of a competitive grant to report to the department information relating to best practices and performance outcomes.

(c) A grant recipient must obtain a seed producer license

1 under Section 62.005, Agriculture Code.

2 Sec. 398.003. COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

3 The department shall:

4 (1) develop goals for the grant program, including
5 desired program results and descriptions of program beneficiaries;

6 (2) establish statewide evaluation criteria to
7 document grant recipient compliance with grant conditions;

8 (3) monitor compliance with the evaluation criteria
9 described by Subdivision (2) by gathering, maintaining, and
10 analyzing comprehensive data on grant program activities;

11 (4) analyze the extent to which the grant program
12 achieves the goals developed under Subdivision (1), using either
13 empirical or nonempirical evidence; and

14 (5) publish the analysis required by Subdivision (4)
15 on the department's Internet website or in any annual publication
16 the department is required by statute to publish.

17 Sec. 398.004. RULES. The department may adopt rules for the
18 administration of the grant program.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.