

By: Guerra, Munoz, Jr.

H.B. No. 3761

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a feasibility report on the creation of a border agricultural inspection training program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 12.049 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.049. FEASIBILITY REPORT ON BORDER AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION TRAINING PROGRAM. (a) The department shall consider the feasibility of creating and administering a program to:

(1) train department employees to meet federal standards for agricultural inspectors performing inspections, other than inspections of animals as defined by Section 161.001, at ports of entry along the border with the United Mexican States; and

(2) allow department employees trained as provided by Subdivision (1) to assist the United States Customs and Border Protection and the United States Department of Agriculture with agricultural inspections, other than inspections of animals as defined by Section 161.001, at ports of entry along the border with the United Mexican States with the goal of reducing the wait time for an agricultural inspection of a vehicle.

(b) The department shall determine whether any agreements with the federal government are required to implement a program described by Subsection (a) and the nature of those agreements.

(c) Not later than December 31, 2014, the department shall

1 submit a report to the committees of each house of the legislature
2 with primary jurisdiction over agriculture concerning the
3 feasibility of a program described by Subsection (a) and the nature
4 of any agreements with the federal government required to implement
5 the program.

6 (d) This section expires August 31, 2015.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.