

By: Rodriguez

S.B. No. 524

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study regarding the prohibition of dairy farming in
3 certain areas of the state.

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

5 SECTION 1. (a) In this Act:

6 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Animal Health
7 Commission.

8 (2) "Department" means the Department of State Health
9 Services.

10 (b) The commission shall conduct a study regarding the
11 current risk level for bovine tuberculosis, as determined
12 epidemiologically and defined by rule of the commission, in areas
13 of this state determined by the commission by rule to be infected
14 with or at high risk for bovine tuberculosis.

15 (c) Not later than September 1, 2014, the commission shall
16 submit a report regarding the results of the study to the Department
17 of Agriculture, the governor, the lieutenant governor, the House
18 Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, the Senate Committee on
19 Agriculture, Rural Affairs, and Homeland Security, the House
20 Committee on Public Health, and the Senate Committee on Health and
21 Human Services. The report must include:

22 (1) an economic impact statement that projects the
23 financial impact of allowing dairy farming in areas determined by
24 the commission by rule to be infected with or at high risk for

1 bovine tuberculosis;

2 (2) an assessment of the risk level for bovine
3 tuberculosis presented by areas in Mexico bordering this state;

4 (3) a description of the efforts taken by the Ministry
5 of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food
6 and other agencies of the United Mexican States to eliminate bovine
7 tuberculosis in the state of Chihuahua and other areas;

8 (4) a description of the current practices adopted by
9 the United States Department of Agriculture and the commission to
10 eliminate bovine tuberculosis;

11 (5) an assessment of the risk level for bovine
12 tuberculosis for the state if dairy farming were to occur in areas
13 determined by the commission by rule to be infected with or at high
14 risk for bovine tuberculosis; and

15 (6) an assessment of whether the areas determined by
16 the commission by rule to be infected with or at high risk for
17 bovine tuberculosis could be decreased in size.

18 (d) As soon as practicable, the commission shall present the
19 report regarding the results of the study at an open meeting of the
20 commission.

21 (e) This Act expires October 1, 2014.

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