

By: Uresti

S.B. No. 772

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the elimination of obsolete and redundant reporting
3 requirements for the Department of Agriculture.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subsections (b), (c), and (d), Section 58.016,
6 Agriculture Code, are amended to read as follows:

7 (b) On or before August 1 of each year, the administrator
8 shall file with the board the proposed annual budgets for the young
9 farmer loan guarantee program under Subchapter E, the farm and
10 ranch finance program under Chapter 59, and the programs
11 administered by the board under this chapter for the succeeding
12 fiscal year. If there is no administrator, the commissioner shall
13 assume the duties of the administrator in connection with
14 preparation of the budget. The budget must set forth the general
15 categories of expected expenditures out of revenues and income of
16 the funds administered by the authority and the amount on account of
17 each. On or before September 1 of each year, the board shall
18 consider the proposed annual budget and may approve it or amend it.

19 ~~[Copies of the annual budget certified by the chairman of the board~~
20 ~~shall be promptly filed with the governor and the legislature. The~~
21 ~~annual budget is not effective until it is filed.]~~ If for any

22 reason the authority does not adopt an annual budget before
23 September 2, no expenditures may be made from the funds until the
24 board approves the annual budget. The authority may adopt an

1 amended annual budget for the current fiscal year [~~, but the amended~~
2 ~~annual budget may not supersede a prior budget until it is filed~~
3 ~~with the governor and the legislature~~].

4 (c) The authority shall have an audit of its books and
5 accounts for each fiscal year by a certified public accountant. The
6 cost of the audit is an expense of the authority. [~~A copy of the~~
7 ~~audit shall be filed with the governor and the legislature on or~~
8 ~~before January 1 of each year.~~]

9 (d) On or before January 1 of each year, the authority shall
10 prepare a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year.
11 The report must set forth a complete operating and financial
12 statement. [~~The authority shall file copies of the report with the~~
13 ~~governor and the legislature as soon as practicable.~~]

14 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 487.051, Government
15 Code, is amended to read as follows:

16 (a) The office shall:

17 (1) assist rural communities in the key areas of
18 economic development, community development, rural health, and
19 rural housing;

20 (2) serve as a clearinghouse for information and
21 resources on all state and federal programs affecting rural
22 communities;

23 (3) in consultation with rural community leaders,
24 locally elected officials, state elected and appointed officials,
25 academic and industry experts, and the interagency work group
26 created under this chapter, identify and prioritize policy issues
27 and concerns affecting rural communities in the state;

1 (4) make recommendations to the legislature to address
2 the concerns affecting rural communities identified under
3 Subdivision (3);

4 (5) monitor developments that have a substantial
5 effect on rural Texas communities, especially actions of state
6 government [~~, and compile an annual report describing and evaluating~~
7 ~~the condition of rural communities~~];

8 (6) administer the federal community development
9 block grant nonentitlement program;

10 (7) administer programs supporting rural health care
11 as provided by this chapter;

12 (8) perform research to determine the most beneficial
13 and cost-effective ways to improve the welfare of rural
14 communities;

15 (9) ensure that the office qualifies as the state's
16 office of rural health for the purpose of receiving grants from the
17 Office of Rural Health Policy of the United States Department of
18 Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. Section 254r;

19 (10) manage the state's Medicare rural hospital
20 flexibility program under 42 U.S.C. Section 1395i-4;

21 (11) seek state and federal money available for
22 economic development in rural areas for programs under this
23 chapter;

24 (12) in conjunction with other offices and divisions
25 of the Department of Agriculture, regularly cross-train office
26 employees with other employees of the Department of Agriculture
27 regarding the programs administered and services provided to rural

1 communities; and

2 (13) work with interested persons to assist volunteer
3 fire departments and emergency services districts in rural areas.

4 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 487.804, Government
5 Code, is amended to read as follows:

6 (b) Not later than January 1 of each even-numbered year, the
7 commissioner shall submit to the legislature a report of the
8 findings of the advisory council and the activities of the Texas
9 Rural Foundation.

10 SECTION 4. The following provisions are repealed:

11 (1) Section 15.006, Agriculture Code;

12 (2) Subsections (e) and (f), Section 102.167,
13 Agriculture Code;

14 (3) Section 487.056, Government Code; and

15 (4) Section 487.653, Government Code.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.