

1-1 By: Uresti S.B. No. 772
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 22, 2013; February 26, 2013,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture, Rural
 1-4 Affairs, and Homeland Security; April 11, 2013, reported favorably
 1-5 by the following vote: Yeas 4, Nays 0; April 11, 2013, sent to
 1-6 printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			

1-14 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-15 AN ACT

1-16 relating to the elimination of obsolete and redundant reporting
 1-17 requirements for the Department of Agriculture.

1-18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-19 SECTION 1. Subsections (b), (c), and (d), Section 58.016,
 1-20 Agriculture Code, are amended to read as follows:

1-21 (b) On or before August 1 of each year, the administrator
 1-22 shall file with the board the proposed annual budgets for the young
 1-23 farmer loan guarantee program under Subchapter E, the farm and
 1-24 ranch finance program under Chapter 59, and the programs
 1-25 administered by the board under this chapter for the succeeding
 1-26 fiscal year. If there is no administrator, the commissioner shall
 1-27 assume the duties of the administrator in connection with
 1-28 preparation of the budget. The budget must set forth the general
 1-29 categories of expected expenditures out of revenues and income of
 1-30 the funds administered by the authority and the amount on account of
 1-31 each. On or before September 1 of each year, the board shall
 1-32 consider the proposed annual budget and may approve it or amend it.
 1-33 ~~[Copies of the annual budget certified by the chairman of the board~~
 1-34 ~~shall be promptly filed with the governor and the legislature. The~~
 1-35 ~~annual budget is not effective until it is filed.]~~ If for any
 1-36 reason the authority does not adopt an annual budget before
 1-37 September 2, no expenditures may be made from the funds until the
 1-38 board approves the annual budget. The authority may adopt an
 1-39 amended annual budget for the current fiscal year ~~[, but the amended~~
 1-40 ~~annual budget may not supersede a prior budget until it is filed~~
 1-41 ~~with the governor and the legislature].~~

1-42 (c) The authority shall have an audit of its books and
 1-43 accounts for each fiscal year by a certified public accountant. The
 1-44 cost of the audit is an expense of the authority. ~~[A copy of the~~
 1-45 ~~audit shall be filed with the governor and the legislature on or~~
 1-46 ~~before January 1 of each year.]~~

1-47 (d) On or before January 1 of each year, the authority shall
 1-48 prepare a report of its activities for the preceding fiscal year.
 1-49 The report must set forth a complete operating and financial
 1-50 statement. ~~[The authority shall file copies of the report with the~~
 1-51 ~~governor and the legislature as soon as practicable.]~~

1-52 SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 487.051, Government
 1-53 Code, is amended to read as follows:

1-54 (a) The office shall:

1-55 (1) assist rural communities in the key areas of
 1-56 economic development, community development, rural health, and
 1-57 rural housing;

1-58 (2) serve as a clearinghouse for information and
 1-59 resources on all state and federal programs affecting rural
 1-60 communities;

1-61 (3) in consultation with rural community leaders,

2-1 locally elected officials, state elected and appointed officials,
 2-2 academic and industry experts, and the interagency work group
 2-3 created under this chapter, identify and prioritize policy issues
 2-4 and concerns affecting rural communities in the state;

2-5 (4) make recommendations to the legislature to address
 2-6 the concerns affecting rural communities identified under
 2-7 Subdivision (3);

2-8 (5) monitor developments that have a substantial
 2-9 effect on rural Texas communities, especially actions of state
 2-10 government [~~and compile an annual report describing and evaluating~~
 2-11 ~~the condition of rural communities~~];

2-12 (6) administer the federal community development
 2-13 block grant nonentitlement program;

2-14 (7) administer programs supporting rural health care
 2-15 as provided by this chapter;

2-16 (8) perform research to determine the most beneficial
 2-17 and cost-effective ways to improve the welfare of rural
 2-18 communities;

2-19 (9) ensure that the office qualifies as the state's
 2-20 office of rural health for the purpose of receiving grants from the
 2-21 Office of Rural Health Policy of the United States Department of
 2-22 Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. Section 254r;

2-23 (10) manage the state's Medicare rural hospital
 2-24 flexibility program under 42 U.S.C. Section 1395i-4;

2-25 (11) seek state and federal money available for
 2-26 economic development in rural areas for programs under this
 2-27 chapter;

2-28 (12) in conjunction with other offices and divisions
 2-29 of the Department of Agriculture, regularly cross-train office
 2-30 employees with other employees of the Department of Agriculture
 2-31 regarding the programs administered and services provided to rural
 2-32 communities; and

2-33 (13) work with interested persons to assist volunteer
 2-34 fire departments and emergency services districts in rural areas.

2-35 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 487.804, Government
 2-36 Code, is amended to read as follows:

2-37 (b) Not later than January 1 of each even-numbered year, the
 2-38 commissioner shall submit to the legislature a report of the
 2-39 findings of the advisory council and the activities of the Texas
 2-40 Rural Foundation.

2-41 SECTION 4. The following provisions are repealed:

2-42 (1) Section 15.006, Agriculture Code;

2-43 (2) Subsections (e) and (f), Section 102.167,
 2-44 Agriculture Code;

2-45 (3) Section 487.056, Government Code; and

2-46 (4) Section 487.653, Government Code.

2-47 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 2-48 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 2-49 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 2-50 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 2-51 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

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