

By: White of Tyler

H.B. No. 809

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the composition of and qualifications for appointment to the Texas Animal Health Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Section 161.021, Agriculture Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) The commission is composed of 15 [~~13~~] commissioners appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, with the appropriate number from each of the following categories:

- (1) a practitioner of veterinary medicine;
- (2) a dairyman;
- (3) a cattle raiser;
- (4) a hog raiser;
- (5) a sheep or goat raiser;
- (6) a poultry raiser;
- (7) an individual involved in the equine industry;
- (8) an individual involved in the feedlot industry;
- (9) an individual involved in the livestock marketing industry;
- (10) three members of the general public; [~~and~~]
- (11) an individual involved in the exotic livestock or exotic fowl industry;
- (12) an individual who raises livestock, but not more

1 than 20 animal units each year as provided by Subsection (a-1); and

2 (13) an individual who raises poultry, but not more
3 than 100 birds each year.

4 (a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a)(12), the Texas A&M
5 AgriLife Extension Service shall adopt rules to determine how many
6 livestock of a species constitute an animal unit based on the amount
7 of forage consumed by livestock of that species.

8 (d) A person is not eligible for appointment as a public
9 member of the commission if the person or the person's spouse:

10 (1) is registered, certified, or licensed by the
11 commission;

12 (2) is employed by or participates in the management
13 of a business entity or other organization:

14 (A) regulated by the commission;

15 (B) [~~or~~] receiving money from the commission; or

16 (C) a significant portion of the operations of
17 which involves animals that are regulated by the commission;

18 (3) owns or controls, directly or indirectly, more
19 than a 10 percent interest in a business entity or other
20 organization:

21 (A) regulated by the commission;

22 (B) [~~or~~] receiving money from the commission;

23 or

24 (C) a significant portion of the operations of
25 which involves animals that are regulated by the commission; or

26 (4) uses or receives a substantial amount of tangible
27 goods, services, or money from the commission, other than

1 compensation or reimbursement authorized by law for commission
2 membership, attendance, or expenses.

3 SECTION 2. Section 161.022, Agriculture Code, is amended to
4 read as follows:

5 Sec. 161.022. TERM. Commissioners serve for staggered
6 terms of six years, with the terms of [~~four~~ or] five members
7 expiring every other year.

8 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable before, on, or after the
9 effective date of this Act, the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
10 Service shall adopt rules under Section 161.021(a-1), Agriculture
11 Code, as added by this Act.

12 SECTION 4. As soon as practicable after the Texas A&M
13 AgriLife Extension Service adopts rules under Section
14 161.021(a-1), Agriculture Code, as added by this Act, the governor
15 shall appoint the members of the Texas Animal Health Commission
16 under Sections 161.021(a)(12) and (13), Agriculture Code, as added
17 by this Act. The governor shall appoint one member to a term
18 expiring in September 2017 and one member to a term expiring in
19 September 2021.

20 SECTION 5. A public member of the Texas Animal Health
21 Commission who does not meet the qualifications for office under
22 Section 161.021(d), Agriculture Code, as amended by this Act, on
23 the effective date of this Act is removed from office on that date.
24 If a public member is removed as provided by this section, the
25 governor shall appoint a replacement to a term complying with
26 Section 161.022, Agriculture Code, as amended by this Act.

27 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.