

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 979

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a grant program to reduce wait times for agricultural
3 inspections of vehicles at ports of entry along the Texas-Mexico
4 border.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by
7 adding Section 12.050 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 12.050. BORDER AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION GRANT PROGRAM.

9 (a) Using money appropriated for this purpose, the department may
10 make a grant to a nonprofit organization for the purpose of
11 promoting the agricultural processing industry in this state by
12 reducing wait times for agricultural inspections of vehicles at
13 ports of entry along the border with the United Mexican States.

14 (b) The department shall request proposals for the award of
15 a grant under this section. The department shall evaluate the
16 proposals and award a grant based on the proposed program's
17 quantifiable effectiveness and the potentially positive impact on
18 the agricultural processing industry in this state.

19 (c) A grant awarded under this section must be made to an
20 organization that has demonstrated experience working with border
21 inspection authorities to reduce border crossing wait times.

22 (d) A grant recipient may use grant money received under
23 this section only to pay for activities directly related to the
24 purpose of the grant program as described by Subsection (a). A grant

1 recipient may use grant money to reimburse a federal governmental
2 agency that, at the request of the grant recipient, provides
3 additional border agricultural inspectors or pays overtime to
4 border agricultural inspectors at ports of entry along the border
5 with the United Mexican States.

6 (e) The department shall establish procedures to administer
7 the grant program, including a procedure for the submission of a
8 proposal and a procedure to be used by the department to evaluate a
9 proposal.

10 (f) The department shall enter into a contract that includes
11 performance requirements with each grant recipient. The department
12 shall monitor and enforce the terms of the contract. The contract
13 must authorize the department to recoup grant money from a grant
14 recipient for failure of the grant recipient to comply with the
15 terms of the contract.

16 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.