

By: González

H.B. No. 3983

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Global Agricultural Initiative Institute program administered by the Department of Agriculture.

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

SECTION 1. Title 3, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Chapter 50E to read as follows:

CHAPTER 50E. GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE INSTITUTE

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 50E.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Council" means the Global Agricultural Initiative Institute Council.

(2) "Program" means the Global Agricultural Initiative Institute program.

Sec. 50E.002. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSIONER AND DEPARTMENT. (a) The department shall administer this chapter and may adopt rules necessary to implement this chapter.

(b) The commissioner may appoint or employ consultants or other agents as necessary for the business of the program.

(c) The department may contract with any state institution of higher education, state agency, domestic or foreign person, or federal agency to perform services or provide facilities for the council.

Sec. 50E.003. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the department is not required to

1 award grants or otherwise implement this chapter and the  
2 commissioner is not required to appoint council members unless the  
3 department is appropriated money or accepts a gift, grant, or  
4 donation for the purpose of implementing this chapter.

5 SUBCHAPTER B. GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE INSTITUTE PROGRAM

6 Sec. 50E.051. PROGRAM ESTABLISHED. The department may  
7 establish the program to enhance and create developing  
8 technologies, recruit businesses to this state, and enhance and  
9 create markets to advance and promote the sale of Texas  
10 agricultural products and services worldwide.

11 Sec. 50E.052. AWARD OF GRANTS. The department may award  
12 grants to further the purposes of the program. The use of grant  
13 money is restricted by the terms of the grant.

14 Sec. 50E.053. PROGRAM ACCOUNT. (a) The Global  
15 Agricultural Initiative Institute account is an account in the  
16 general revenue fund. The account is composed of:

17 (1) legislative appropriations;  
18 (2) gifts, grants, and donations received under  
19 Section 50E.054; and  
20 (3) other money required by law to be deposited in the  
21 account.

22 (b) Money in the account may be appropriated only to the  
23 department for the purpose of the program.

24 (c) Income from money in the account shall be credited to  
25 the account.

26 (d) The account is exempt from the application of Section  
27 403.095, Government Code.

1       (e) The department may transfer to the account money from  
2 another account or fund administered by the department to the  
3 extent that money may be used for the purposes of this chapter.

4       (f) To the extent provided by legislative appropriation,  
5 the department may carry forward money in the account from the first  
6 fiscal year of a biennium to the second year and may carry forward  
7 the unexpended balance of the account from one fiscal biennium to  
8 the next.

9       Sec. 50E.054. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The council  
10 and the department may solicit, accept, and use gifts, grants, and  
11 donations from public and private sources for the purposes of this  
12 chapter, subject only to limitations contained in the gifts,  
13 grants, or donations.

14       SUBCHAPTER C. GLOBAL AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE INSTITUTE COUNCIL

15       Sec. 50E.101. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS. (a) The council is  
16 composed of:

17               (1) the commissioner or the commissioner's designee,  
18 who is the chair of the council; and

19               (2) one representative of each of the following,  
20 appointed by the commissioner:

21                       (A) Texas A&M University;

22                       (B) The University of Texas at Austin;

23                       (C) Texas Tech University;

24                       (D) the agriculture marketing industry;

25                       (E) international agricultural financing  
26 businesses;

27                       (F) the livestock industry in this state;

1           (G) the crop production industry in this state;

2           (H) international trade; and

3           (I) humanitarian interests.

4           (b) Members appointed under Subsection (a)(2) serve  
5 staggered six-year terms, with as near as possible to one-third of  
6 the members' terms expiring on February 1 of each odd-numbered  
7 year.

8           (c) Membership on the council by a state officer or employee  
9 is an additional duty of the officer's or employee's employment.

10          Sec. 50E.102. DUTIES OF COUNCIL. (a) The council shall  
11 advise the department in the administration of the program.

12          (b) The council shall select the recipients of any grants  
13 awarded under the program.

14          (c) The council may conduct surveys, research, or  
15 investigations for the purposes of the program.

16          Sec. 50E.103. MEETINGS. The council shall meet at least  
17 once each year at the call of the chair.

18          Sec. 50E.104. EXPENSES. A member of the council is not  
19 entitled to compensation for service on the council or  
20 reimbursement for travel expenses incurred by the member while  
21 conducting council business.

22          Sec. 50E.105. STAFF AND RESOURCES. The commissioner shall  
23 provide the council with necessary staff and resources to perform  
24 the council's duties under this chapter, as determined by the  
25 commissioner.

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