

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 2600

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Bee Pollinator Goals Task Force to develop and report on statewide pollinator goals.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 131, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 131.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 131.011. BEE POLLINATOR GOALS TASK FORCE. (a) The Bee Pollinator Goals Task Force is established to develop statewide bee pollinator goals and metrics and report on the state's progress toward those goals and metrics on a biennial basis.

(b) The task force consists of members appointed by the governor who have relevant experience in agriculture, conservation, education, or local government from the following state agencies:

- (1) the department;
- (2) the Texas Animal Health Commission;
- (3) the Texas Education Agency;
- (4) the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality;
- (5) the Texas Feed and Fertilizer Control Service;
- (6) the Office of the Texas State Chemist;
- (7) the Department of State Health Services;
- (8) the General Land Office;
- (9) the Parks and Wildlife Department; and
- (10) the Railroad Commission of Texas.

1        (c) The governor shall designate a member who represents the  
2 department to be the chair of the task force. Members serve at the  
3 pleasure of the governor.

4        (d) State agencies with members on the task force shall  
5 provide administrative support for the task force.

6        (e) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,  
7 the task force shall submit a report to the members of the  
8 legislature on the factors contributing to the decline of the bee  
9 population in this state, including habitat loss, pesticides,  
10 diseases, and parasites, and recommend feasible initiatives that,  
11 when implemented, will stop the spread of bee-related diseases,  
12 sustain this state's bee population, and contribute toward reaching  
13 the goals and metrics developed by the task force.

14        (f) The report under Subsection (e) must include:

15                (1) recommendations for:

16                        (A) the research needs of this state in the field  
17 of bee pollination;

18                        (B) the establishment of statewide pollination  
19 policies; and

20                        (C) state funding to reduce the significant loss  
21 of bee pollinators in this state to help achieve statewide  
22 pollinator goals; and

23                (2) information on:

24                        (A) interagency collaboration on pollinator  
25 protection efforts and methods to improve coordination of the  
26 policies and programs of member state agencies to maximize the  
27 benefits from those efforts;

1                    (B) ways to raise public awareness of pollinator  
2 issues; and

3                    (C) the effectiveness of state agency pollinator  
4 programs, reports, and recommendations.

5            SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
6 of this Act, the governor shall make the appointments to the Bee  
7 Pollinator Goals Task Force as described by Section 131.011,  
8 Agriculture Code, as added by this Act.

9            SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.