

1-1 By: Guerra, et al. H.B. No. 2155  
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Lucio, Hinojosa)  
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 9, 2019;  
 1-4 May 13, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-5 Intergovernmental Relations; May 15, 2019, reported adversely,  
 1-6 with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 4,  
 1-7 Nays 3; May 15, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE VOTE

|      | Yea | Nay | Absent | PNV |
|------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| 1-9  |     |     |        |     |
| 1-10 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-11 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-12 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-13 |     | X   |        |     |
| 1-14 |     | X   |        |     |
| 1-15 | X   |     |        |     |
| 1-16 |     | X   |        |     |

1-17 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2155 By: Lucio

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to a grant program to reduce wait times for agricultural  
 1-21 inspections of vehicles at ports of entry along the Texas-Mexico  
 1-22 border.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by  
 1-25 adding Section 12.050 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 12.050. TRADE AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION GRANT PROGRAM.

1-27 (a) Using money appropriated for this purpose or money received  
 1-28 under Subsection (g), the department may make a grant to a nonprofit  
 1-29 organization for the purpose of promoting the agricultural  
 1-30 processing industry in this state by reducing wait times for  
 1-31 agricultural inspections of vehicles at ports of entry along the  
 1-32 border with the United Mexican States.

1-33 (b) The department shall request proposals for the award of  
 1-34 a grant under this section. The department shall evaluate the  
 1-35 proposals and award a grant based on the proposed program's  
 1-36 quantifiable effectiveness and the potentially positive impact on  
 1-37 the agricultural processing industry in this state.

1-38 (c) A grant awarded under this section must be made to an  
 1-39 organization that has demonstrated experience working with border  
 1-40 inspection authorities to reduce border crossing wait times.

1-41 (d) A grant recipient may use grant money received under  
 1-42 this section only to pay for activities directly related to the  
 1-43 purpose of the grant program as described by Subsection (a). A  
 1-44 grant recipient may use grant money to reimburse a federal  
 1-45 governmental agency that, at the request of the grant recipient,  
 1-46 provides additional border agricultural inspectors or pays  
 1-47 overtime to border agricultural inspectors at ports of entry along  
 1-48 the border with the United Mexican States.

1-49 (e) The department shall establish procedures to administer  
 1-50 the grant program, including a procedure for the submission of a  
 1-51 proposal and a procedure to be used by the department to evaluate a  
 1-52 proposal.

1-53 (f) The department shall enter into a contract that includes  
 1-54 performance requirements with each grant recipient. The department  
 1-55 shall monitor and enforce the terms of the contract. The contract  
 1-56 must authorize the department to recoup grant money from a grant  
 1-57 recipient for failure of the grant recipient to comply with the  
 1-58 terms of the contract.

1-59 (g) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and  
 1-60 donations from any source for the purpose of awarding grants under

2-1 this section.

2-2 (h) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
2-3 nonprofit organization must provide matching funds. The department  
2-4 may not award a grant to a nonprofit organization until the  
2-5 department certifies that the nonprofit organization has the  
2-6 matching funds. The amount of the grant may not exceed the amount  
2-7 of matching funds. The department may not require a nonprofit  
2-8 organization to provide matching funds in an amount that exceeds  
2-9 the amount of the grant.

2-10 (i) The total amount of grants awarded under this section  
2-11 may not exceed \$725,000 for the duration of the program.

2-12 (j) The department may adopt any rules necessary to  
2-13 implement this section.

2-14 (k) Not later than January 15, 2021, the department shall  
2-15 evaluate the performance of the program under this section and  
2-16 submit a report to the legislature. The report must include an  
2-17 evaluation of agricultural inspections affected by the program,  
2-18 including the extent to which the program is reducing wait times for  
2-19 agricultural inspections of vehicles at ports of entry along the  
2-20 border with the United Mexican States.

2-21 (l) Unless continued in existence by the legislature, this  
2-22 section expires September 1, 2021.

2-23 SECTION 2. The Department of Agriculture is required to  
2-24 implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature  
2-25 appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the  
2-26 legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
2-27 purpose, the department may, but is not required to, implement a  
2-28 provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that  
2-29 purpose.

2-30 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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