

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 86TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 22, 2019**

**TO:** Honorable Dennis Bonnen, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

**FROM:** John McGeady, Assistant Director    Sarah Keyton, Assistant Director  
Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB2155** by Guerra (Relating to a grant program to reduce wait times for agricultural inspections of vehicles at ports of entry along the Texas-Mexico border.), **As Passed 2nd House**

**Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds** for HB2155, As Passed 2nd House: a negative impact of (\$725,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2021.

**The Department of Agriculture is required to implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the agency may, but is not required to, implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations available for that purpose.**

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

**General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</b>
2020	(\$725,000)
2021	\$0
2022	\$0
2023	\$0
2024	\$0

**All Funds, Five-Year Impact:**

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund</b>
2020	(\$725,000)
2021	\$0
2022	\$0
2023	\$0
2024	\$0

## **Fiscal Analysis**

The bill would amend the Agriculture Code to allow the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) to make a grant to a non-profit organization of up to \$725,000, using either funds appropriated for this purpose or funds received as a gift, grant or donation, for the purpose of reducing wait times for agricultural inspections of vehicles along the Texas-Mexico border.

TDA would be directed to request grant proposals and to assess the proposals based on the proposed program's quantifiable effectiveness. The grant would be required to be awarded to an organization with experience working with border inspection authorities to reduce wait times for border crossing and the grant recipient would be required to provide matching funds. TDA would be required to enter into a contract with the grant recipient that enables TDA to recoup grant funding if the grant recipient fails to comply with the terms of the contract. TDA would be required to evaluate the performance of the program and to submit a report to the Legislature no later than January 15, 2021.

Unless continued in existence by the Legislature, TDA's authority to issue this grant would expire on September 1, 2021. The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

## **Methodology**

For the purpose of this analysis, it is assumed that TDA would need \$725,000 in General Revenue to issue a grant and would issue that grant in fiscal year 2020. Based on information provided by TDA, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill, apart from the cost of the funds to be granted, could be accomplished with existing resources.

## **Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 551 Department of Agriculture

**LBB Staff:** WP, AF, SD, SZ, MW, PBO