

By: White

H.B. No. 543

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of working animals by a political subdivision.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Chapter 251, Agriculture Code, is amended to read as follows:

CHAPTER 251. EFFECT OF NUISANCE ACTIONS AND GOVERNMENTAL REQUIREMENTS ON CERTAIN [~~PREEXISTING~~] AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS

SECTION 2. Chapter 251, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 251.007 to read as follows:

Sec. 251.007. REGULATION OF WORKING ANIMALS. (a) In this section, "working animal" means an animal used for the purpose of performing a specific duty or function, including entertainment, transportation, or education.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, a political subdivision may not impose a governmental requirement that terminates, bans, or effectively bans by imposing an undue financial hardship, the job or use of a working animal or an enterprise that employs a working animal.

(c) A governmental requirement adopted by a political subdivision that violates Subsection (b) is void.

SECTION 3. Section 251.007, Agriculture Code, as added by this Act, applies to a governmental requirement adopted before, on, or after the effective date of this Act.

1 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.