88R9104 MP-D

By:  West S.B. No. 758

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to food system security and resiliency planning.

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

SECTION 1.  Title 2, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Chapter 23 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 23. FOOD SYSTEM SECURITY

Sec. 23.001.  DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1)  "Council" means the Texas food system security and resiliency planning council.

(2)  "Office" means:

(A)  the office of food system security and resiliency if that office is established as a division within the department by an Act of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023; or

(B)  the food and nutrition division of the department if the office of food system security and resiliency is not established as a division within the department by an Act of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.

Sec. 23.002.  TEXAS FOOD SYSTEM SECURITY AND RESILIENCY PLANNING COUNCIL. (a) The office shall establish the Texas food system security and resiliency planning council. The council is composed of the following members:

(1)  seven members appointed by the governor;

(2)  seven members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3)  six members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(4)  one member appointed by the commissioner to represent food banks;

(5)  the assistant commissioner of agriculture for the food and nutrition division as a nonvoting member;

(6)  the director of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as a nonvoting member; and

(7)  one nonvoting member appointed by the executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission to represent the supplemental nutrition assistance program, the federal special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and the supplemental nutrition assistance program-education.

(b)  A council member serves at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

(c)  The governor shall designate a chair of the council from the members that the governor appoints. The lieutenant governor shall designate a vice chair of the council from the members that the lieutenant governor appoints.

(d)  The council shall meet at least once quarterly or more frequently at the call of the chair.

(e)  A member of the council is not entitled to compensation or reimbursement for expenses incurred in performing council duties.

(f)  The council shall:

(1)  give guidance to the office; and

(2)  review the state food system security plan developed under Section 23.003.

Sec. 23.003.  STATE FOOD SYSTEM SECURITY PLAN. (a) The office shall develop a state food system security plan. The plan must:

(1)  provide for the orderly development and management of food system security throughout this state, including ensuring sufficient food is available at a reasonable cost to:

(A)  ensure public health, safety, and welfare;

(B)  further economic development; and

(C)  protect the agricultural and natural resources of this state;

(2)  account for times of severe drought conditions, natural disaster, man-made disaster, or other calamities; and

(3)  include legislative recommendations that are needed or desirable to facilitate the resilience and availability of food in this state.

(b)  In developing the plan, the office shall seek the advice of:

(1)  the Department of State Health Services; and

(2)  the Parks and Wildlife Department.

(c)  The office shall:

(1)  review and revise as necessary the plan developed under Subsection (a) at least once every five years; and

(2)  deliver the plan to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chair of the appropriate committees in each house of the legislature.

Sec. 23.004.  FOOD SYSTEM SECURITY PLANNING FUND. (a) In this section, "planning fund" means the food system security planning fund.

(b)  The planning fund is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund and consists of:

(1)  appropriations of money to the planning fund by the legislature;

(2)  gifts, grants, including federal grants, and other donations received for the planning fund; and

(3)  interest earned on the investment of money in the planning fund.

(c)  The planning fund may be used only to administer the council under Section 23.002.

(d)  The office may accept grants, gifts, or donations from any source that are made for the purposes of this section. Money received under this subsection shall be deposited in the planning fund.

Sec. 23.005.  TEXAS FOOD SYSTEM SECURITY AND RESILIENCY GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1)  "Eligible recipient" means:

(A)  a municipality;

(B)  a county;

(C)  a council of government;

(D)  a regional planning council;

(E)  an economic development corporation;

(F)  a transit authority;

(G)  a nonprofit or similar organization;

(H)  a farm or agricultural product or service cooperative;

(I)  a nonprofit farmers' market or grocery store; or

(J)  a micro-business as defined by Section 2006.001, Government Code.

(2)  "Grant fund" means the Texas food system security and resiliency projects fund.

(b)  The grant fund is a dedicated account in the general revenue fund and consists of:

(1)  appropriations of money to the grant fund by the legislature;

(2)  gifts, grants, including federal grants, and other donations received for the grant fund; and

(3)  interest earned on the investment of money in the grant fund.

(c)  The office shall award grants to eligible recipients to increase food system security or resiliency in this state. To be eligible for a grant, a project must be related to food production, food system security, or food supply resiliency and have the ability to impact either an individual community or the production of a specific agricultural commodity.

(d)  The grant fund may be used by the office only to:

(1)  award grants under this section; and

(2)  administer the grant program under this section.

Sec. 23.006.  RULES. The department shall adopt rules necessary to administer this chapter.

SECTION 2.  (a) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall adopt rules and procedures as required to implement Chapter 23, Agriculture Code, as added by this Act.

(b)  As soon as practicable after the adoption of rules and procedures under Subsection (a) of this section, the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission, and commissioner of agriculture shall appoint the initial members of the Texas food system security and resiliency planning council under Section 23.002, Agriculture Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 3.  Not later than September 1, 2025, the office, as that term is defined by Section 23.001, Agriculture Code, as added by this Act, shall deliver the initial state food system security plan as required by Section 23.003(c), Agriculture Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.