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H.B. No. 1781

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the Texas Livestock and Rodeo Education and
Continuation Grant Program.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle D, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
by adding Chapter 452 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 452. TEXAS LIVESTOCK AND RODEO EDUCATION AND CONTINUATION
GRANT PROGRAM

Sec. 452.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Texas Livestock and Rodeo
Education and Continuation Board established under Section
452.003.

(2) "Fund" means the Texas Livestock and Rodeo
Education and Continuation Fund established under Section 452.002.

(3) "Grant program" means the Texas Livestock and
Rodeo Education and Continuation Grant Program established under
Section 452.006.

Sec. 452.002. TEXAS LIVESTOCK AND RODEO EDUCATION AND
CONTINUATION FUND; OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR DUTIES. (a) The Texas
Livestock and Rodeo Education and Continuation Fund is established
outside the state treasury. The administration of the fund is
considered to be a trustee program within the office of the
governor.

(b) The fund consists of:

1 (1) money appropriated, credited, or transferred to
2 the fund by the legislature;

3 (2) gifts or grants contributed to the fund; and

4 (3) interest earned on the deposits and investments of
5 the fund.

6 (c) The fund may be used only to implement the grant program
7 established under Section 452.006, including the costs of grant
8 program administration and operation.

9 (d) The governor at the direction of the board may disburse
10 money from the fund without appropriation only as provided by this
11 chapter and rules adopted under this chapter.

12 (e) The governor in consultation with the board may adopt
13 rules necessary to implement this chapter.

14 Sec. 452.003. TEXAS LIVESTOCK AND RODEO EDUCATION AND
15 CONTINUATION BOARD. (a) The Texas Livestock and Rodeo Education
16 and Continuation Board consists of seven members appointed by the
17 governor.

18 (b) In appointing members to the board, the governor shall
19 ensure each member has demonstrated interest in issues related to
20 rodeos and county fairs in this state through:

21 (1) competing in rodeos; or

22 (2) previous service:

23 (A) on a board of a rodeo organization, county
24 fair organization, 4-H program, or Future Farmers of America
25 organization; or

26 (B) with an organization or program described by
27 Paragraph (A) in the preceding 15 years.

1 (c) The board must include at least:

2 (1) two members with rodeo experience; and

3 (2) two members with county fair experience.

4 (d) Each board member the governor appoints must represent a
5 different region of this state.

6 (e) A board member may not hold any other public office.

7 (f) A board member serves without compensation but is
8 entitled to reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in attending
9 board meetings and in performing board duties.

10 (g) If a vacancy occurs on the board, the governor shall
11 appoint a member to fill the vacancy. A member appointed to fill a
12 vacancy on the board shall serve the remainder of the unexpired
13 term.

14 (h) The board shall meet quarterly.

15 Sec. 452.004. BOARD MEMBER TERMS. Board members serve
16 staggered six-year terms with the terms of two or three members
17 expiring on January 1 of each even-numbered year. A board member may
18 not serve more than two terms.

19 Sec. 452.005. BOARD PRESIDING OFFICER AND ASSISTANT
20 PRESIDING OFFICER. (a) The governor shall select from among the
21 board members a presiding officer for the board who serves at the
22 pleasure of the governor.

23 (b) The board members shall elect an assistant presiding
24 officer from among the board members who serves at the pleasure of
25 the board.

26 (c) The presiding officer and assistant presiding officer
27 serve two-year terms.

1 Sec. 452.006. TEXAS LIVESTOCK AND RODEO EDUCATION AND
2 CONTINUATION GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The board shall establish and
3 administer the Texas Livestock and Rodeo Education and Continuation
4 Grant Program to award money from the fund to county fairs and local
5 rodeos for the purposes of assisting with:

6 (1) facility and infrastructure maintenance or
7 construction;

8 (2) event programs;

9 (3) personnel salaries; and

10 (4) public health and safety.

11 (b) To be eligible for a grant award under the grant
12 program, an applicant must:

13 (1) apply in the manner the board prescribes;

14 (2) be in good standing under the laws of this state;

15 (3) specify the manner the grant money would benefit
16 county livestock programs or local youth agricultural programs
17 within the county; and

18 (4) demonstrate a legitimate need for the grant money
19 that provides a public benefit to this state in accordance with
20 board rules.

21 (c) The board may only award a grant in accordance with a
22 contract between the board and a grant recipient that includes
23 conditions providing the board with sufficient control to ensure
24 the public purpose of continuing to promote and improve this
25 state's livestock and agricultural programs and to educate the
26 public regarding those programs is accomplished and this state
27 receives a return benefit.

1 (d) Each local rodeo or county fair applicant awarded a
2 grant under the grant program shall submit:

3 (1) for a rodeo or county fair with an operating budget
4 greater than \$10 million, a report on the economic impact
5 attributable to the preparation for and presentation of the rodeo
6 or fair in the area served by the rodeo or fair; or

7 (2) for a rodeo or county fair with an operating budget
8 less than \$10 million, a report demonstrating the economic
9 development needs of the community.

10 (e) The board shall adopt rules as necessary to implement
11 this section.

12 Sec. 452.007. PERSONNEL. The board shall employ the
13 officers and employees necessary to administer this chapter.

14 Sec. 452.008. BIENNIAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of
15 each even-numbered year, the board shall prepare and submit to each
16 member of the legislature a report that includes:

17 (1) the fund balance as of the date of the report;

18 (2) the total amount of grant money awarded under and
19 other disbursements from the fund during the two preceding state
20 fiscal years;

21 (3) the number of grant applications submitted to the
22 board during the two preceding state fiscal years; and

23 (4) the economic impact reports and community need
24 reports submitted to the board during the two preceding state
25 fiscal years.

26 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2026, the governor
27 shall appoint members to the Texas Livestock and Rodeo Education

1 and Continuation Board and select a presiding officer from among
2 the members of the board as required by Chapter 452, Government
3 Code, as added by this Act.

4 (b) Notwithstanding Section 452.004, Government Code, as
5 added by this Act, in making the initial appointments to the Texas
6 Livestock and Rodeo Education and Continuation Board under
7 Subsection (a) of this section, the governor shall designate two
8 members to serve terms expiring January 1, 2028, two members to
9 serve terms expiring January 1, 2030, and three members to serve
10 terms expiring January 1, 2032.

11 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable following the effective
12 date of this Act, the Texas Livestock and Rodeo Education and
13 Continuation Board shall adopt the rules necessary to administer
14 the Texas Livestock and Rodeo Education and Continuation Grant
15 Program established under Section 452.006, Government Code, as
16 added by this Act.

17 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.