

By: Blanco

S.B. No. 2601

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the landowner compensation program.

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

SECTION 1. Article 56C.001(2), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "Border crime" means conduct:

(A) constituting an offense under:

(i) Subchapter D, Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code;

(ii) Section 20.05, 20.06, or 38.04, Penal Code; or

(iii) Chapter 20A, Penal Code; and

(B) involving transnational criminal activity.

SECTION 2. Article 56C.003, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b-1), (c-1), and (e) to read as follows:

(a) From money appropriated for the purpose, the attorney general shall establish and administer a program to compensate landowners and lessees who suffer real property damage on agricultural land caused by:

(1) a trespasser as a result of an offense under Chapter 28, Penal Code, that was committed in the course of or in furtherance of a border crime; or

(2) a law enforcement response to a trespasser who was

1 engaged in a border crime.

2 (b-1) For purposes of Subsection (a), damage caused to  
3 agricultural land includes any debris, pollutants, or contaminants  
4 left on the land during the applicable incident, and compensation  
5 awarded under this article may include an amount necessary to clean  
6 debris, pollutants, or contaminants.

7 (c-1) The attorney general may not award compensation under  
8 this article to a lessee for real property damage caused by a  
9 trespasser described by Subsection (a)(1) unless the lessee  
10 provides a notarized statement from the landowner authorizing the  
11 lessee to directly receive compensation awarded under this article  
12 for the damage.

13 (e) On request by the attorney general and not later than  
14 the 14th business day after the date of the request, a law  
15 enforcement agency shall release to the attorney general all  
16 reports, including witness statements and criminal history record  
17 information, to allow the attorney general to determine whether a  
18 person qualifies for an award of compensation under this article  
19 and the extent of the damage.

20 SECTION 3. Section 2251.052, Insurance Code, is amended by  
21 adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

22 (a-1) In setting rates, an insurer may not consider whether  
23 a claim has been made by or on behalf of a policyholder in relation  
24 to an event documented by a report described by Article 56C.003(c),  
25 Code of Criminal Procedure.

26 SECTION 4. Section 2251.052(a-1), Insurance Code, as added  
27 by this Act, applies only to an insurance policy that is delivered,

1 issued for delivery, or renewed on or after January 1, 2026. A  
2 policy delivered, issued for delivery, or renewed before January 1,  
3 2026, is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the  
4 effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for  
5 that purpose.

6 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.