

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1465
By: Brown
Natural Resources
3-18-97
As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas law requires veterinarians to report specific diseases to the Texas Animal Health Commission (commission). This bill would give the commission the authority to adopt rules regarding these requirements, so that in the event a disease not currently listed breaks out, the commission would have the authority to test for the disease.

The rate of indemnity, as determined by statute, that the commission pays to an owner of tuberculosis-infected cattle is \$35 and \$70 for cattle and purebred cattle, respectively. This bill would allow the commission to determine the rate of indemnity.

This bill would also authorize the commission to require slaughter plants to submit blood for testing for diseases other than bovine brucellosis; and establishes a penalty for those facilities that do not comply.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1465 gives the Texas Animal Health Commission the rulemaking authority regarding rates of indemnity and the testing of diseases; authorizes the commission to require slaughter plants to collect and submit blood samples and other diagnostic specimens for testing for disease.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Animal Health Commission under SECTIONS 1 and 2 (Sections 161.055 and 161.101, Agriculture Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 161C, Agriculture Code, by adding Section 161.055, as follows:

Sec. 161.055. SLAUGHTER PLANT COLLECTION. Authorizes the Texas Animal Health Commission (commission) to require slaughter plants to collect and submit blood samples and other diagnostic specimens for testing for disease. Requires the commission, by rule, to determine the method of collecting, submitting, and testing of blood samples and other diagnostic specimens. Provides that the owner or operator of a slaughter plant commits a Class C misdemeanor, except under certain circumstances, if the slaughter plants fails to comply with this section or a rule adopted under this section.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 161.101, Agriculture Code, to authorize the commission to adopt rules, following notice and public hearing, requiring veterinarians to report the existence of specified diseases among livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl. Authorizes the commission to establish when the report is to be made and what information is to be provided. Deletes Subsections (a)-(c) regarding the reporting of disease and related information.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 161.145, Agriculture Code, to provide that a person commits a Class B misdemeanor if, as veterinarian, the person wilfully fails to comply with a rule adopted pursuant to Subchapter F.

SECTION 4. Amends Chapter 161C, Agriculture Code by amending Section 162.008, to authorize the commission to pay an indemnity to the owner of cattle exposed to or infected with tuberculosis if the commission considers it necessary to eradicate disease. Authorizes the commission to adopt rules for the implementation of this section, including rules for determining eligibility for compensation. Deletes Subsections (a)-(e) regarding compensation.

SECTION 5. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 6. Emergency clause.