

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1814  
By: Duncan  
Natural Resources  
5-6-97  
As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Due to climatic conditions last winter and a lack of funding last year the Texas Agriculture Extension Service is predicting 1.5 to 3 times more boll weevils to emerge this season than last season. Boll Weevils damage cotton crops and as such pose a significant threat to the welfare of a number of regions in Texas which depend largely on cotton. In an effort to improve the existing official cotton growers boll weevil eradication program this bill would widen the existing area covered by the High Plains Boll Weevil Suppression Program Area.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 1814 expands the area covered by the High Plains Boll Weevil Suppression Program Area.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 74.102, Agriculture Code, to redefine the "High Plains Boll Weevil Suppression Program Area" to include, among others, Andrews, Armstrong, Ector, Kent, and Randall counties.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 74.113, Agriculture Code, to require the foundation to determine the assessment needed in each eradication zone to accomplish the following goal: to ensure the stability of the cotton industry by eradicating the public nuisance caused by the boll weevil. Deletes existing goal. Authorizes the maximum assessment to be paid by cotton growers having production in the eradication zone to be based on acres in production, acres available for production, projected cotton production, actual cotton production, or an combination of the above, as determined by referenda. Authorizes the assessment to be collected in one, two, three, or four installments yearly, as determined by referenda. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.  
Effective date: upon passage.