

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S/C on Agriculture & Coastal Resources
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

The use of certificates of veterinary inspection, often called health certificates, ensures that only healthy and disease-free animals are moved within the state or exported to other states or countries. A licensed, accredited veterinarian signs a certificate of veterinary inspection after having visually inspected such animals before issuing a certificate. A fee of twenty-five cents for each certificate was established by a statute in 1981. This fee no longer covers the costs of printing the certificates.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Animal Health Commission in SECTION 1 (Section 161.061, Agriculture Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Subchapter C, Chapter 161, Agriculture Code, by adding Section 161.061, as follows:

Sec. 161.061. CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION. (a) Authorizes the Texas Animal Health Commission (commission), by rule, to provide for the issuance of a certificate of veterinary inspection by a veterinarian to a person transporting livestock, exotic livestock, domestic fowl, or exotic fowl in this state.

(b) Requires the commission, by rule, to set and charge a fee for each certificate of veterinary inspection provided to a veterinarian under this section.

SECTION 2. Repealer: Section 161.081(d) (regarding a 25-cent fee for each certificate issued), Agriculture Code.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2005.