

- SUBJECT:** Requiring authorization to engage in animal disease control programs
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture and Livestock — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — T. King, Anderson, M. González, Kacal, Kleinschmidt, Springer, White
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Elizabeth Choate, Texas Veterinary Medical Association;
(*Registered, but did not testify:* Darren Turley, Texas Association of Dairymen)
On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Dee Ellis, Texas Animal Health Commission)
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Animal Health Commission’s current statutory authority for the authorization of individuals performing animal disease control activities is limited to brucellosis.
Current agency disease control programs include brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, trichomoniasis, cervid tuberculosis, contagious equine metritis, equine piroplasmiasis and chronic wasting disease.
- DIGEST:** HB 3569 would amend Agriculture Code, ch. 161 by adding a section relating to authorized personnel for disease control that would require persons performing animal disease control activities to be authorized, by rule, by the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). The TAHC would be required to adopt the rules by December 1, 2013.
After reasonable notice, TAHC could suspend or revoke a person's authorization if it was determined the person had substantially failed to comply with the requirements.
The bill also would provide for the issuance of electronically issued certificates of veterinary inspection.

HB 3569 would take effect September 1, 2013.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

The Texas Animal Health Commission's current statutory authority for the authorization of individuals performing animal disease control activities for the commission is limited to brucellosis. However, current agency disease control programs include brucellosis, bovine tuberculosis, trichomoniasis, cervid tuberculosis, contagious equine metritis, equine piroplasmiasis and chronic wasting disease.

HB 3569 would broaden the statutory authority of the TAHC to allow the agency to develop certification and training programs for all disease programs, not just brucellosis. The bill also would help with quality control over the tests, samples, and inspections performed for other animal diseases.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

HB 3569 would create an ongoing expense for TAHC of maintaining the data of persons authorized to participate in disease control and eradication, requiring additional personnel. This would result in a yearly cost to general revenue \$86,691 in salaries and benefits.