

- SUBJECT:** Altering the certification timeframe for TDA's metrology lab
- COMMITTEE:** Agriculture and Livestock — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — T. King, González, C. Anderson, Cyrier, Rinaldi, Stucky
0 nays
1 absent — Burrows
- WITNESSES:** For — None
Against — None
On — Philip Wright, Texas Department of Agriculture
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) maintains in its metrology laboratory the state's primary standards by which all state and local standards of weights and measures are tried, authenticated, proved, and certified. Agriculture Code, sec. 13.113(b) requires TDA to submit these standards to the National Institute of Standards and Technology for certification at least once every 10 years.
- In 2009, an assessment of the metrology laboratory found that the facility's environmental conditions were not meeting federal National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) requirements. The lab is NIST-recognized through fiscal 2017, but could lose its recognition unless repairs are conducted. Concerns have been raised regarding the financial impact that could result if TDA's metrology laboratory lost NIST recognition.
- DIGEST:** HB 1730 would revise the frequency with which the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) had to submit its standards to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) or a laboratory approved by NIST for certification. TDA would be required to submit the standards to one of the approved entities as necessary to maintain recognition of the laboratory,

rather than at least once every 10 years as under current law.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.