SENATE RESOLUTION
S.R. No. 627

WHEREAS, Agriculture supplies the food, fiber, and raw materials essential to a healthy and productive economy; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture is one of Texas' leading industries, and Texas is one of the nation's leading agricultural states; and

WHEREAS, Any problems affecting the agricultural sector in Texas may detract from the valuable role that it plays in the state and national economy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the 67th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby direct the Senate Committee on Natural Resources to conduct an interim study of certain issues related to agriculture. The committee shall:

(1) investigate recent grain elevator explosions in Texas and suggest means to reduce the likelihood that such catastrophes will recur;

(2) study the issue of bonding or recovery funds associated with grain elevator storage to ensure commodity producers against possible economic loss;

(3) examine the adequacy and timeliness of publicly funded agricultural research and development programs;

(4) explore the issue of agricultural labor with respect to labor availability and labor relations;

(5) study the transportation of agricultural commodities and analyze the effect that transportation rates have upon agricultural profitability;

(6) examine any problems relating to the enabling legislation and administration of the Family Farm and Ranch Security Program; and
(7) review the measures the state has taken to guarantee that farmers are assured sufficient supplies of water for their crops and livestock; and, be it further.

RESOLVED, That the committee be authorized to employ staff to assist in the conduct of the study; and, be it further.

RESOLVED, That the committee have the power to issue process to witnesses at any place in the State of Texas, to compel the attendance of such witnesses, and to compel the production of all books, records, documents, and instruments that the committee may require; if necessary to obtain compliance with subpoenas and other process, the committee shall have the power to issue writs of attachment; all process issued by the committee may be addressed to and served by any peace officer of the State of Texas or any of its political subdivisions; the chair shall issue, in the name of the committee, such subpoenas and other process as the committee may direct; in the event that the chair is absent, the vice-chair or any designee of the chair is authorized to issue subpoenas or any other process in the same manner as the chair; witnesses attending proceedings of the committee under process shall be allowed the same mileage and per diem as are allowed witnesses before any grand jury in the state; the testimony given at any hearing conducted pursuant to this Resolution shall be reduced to writing and shall be given under oath subject to the penalties of perjury; and, be it further.

RESOLVED, That the committee be authorized to request the assistance, where needed in the discharge of its duties, of the Texas Department of Agriculture, the Industrial Accident Board, The Texas A&M University System, the Texas Department of Water
Resources, and all other state agencies, departments, and offices, and that it be the duty of such departments, agencies, and offices to assist the committee when requested to do so; the committee shall have the power to inspect the records, documents, and files of every department, agency, and office of the state to the extent necessary to the discharge of its duties within the area of its jurisdiction; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the actual expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this Resolution be paid from the funds provided the committee for interim activities; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the committee make a complete report, including findings and recommendations and drafts of any legislation deemed necessary, to the 68th Legislature when it convenes in January, 1983; five copies of the completed report shall be filed in the Legislative Reference Library; five copies shall be filed with the Texas Legislative Council; and two copies shall be filed with the secretary of the senate; following official distribution of the committee report, all remaining copies shall be deposited with the Legislative Reference Librarian.

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 26, 1981, as amended.

Secretary of the Senate