

1-1 By: Lucio S.B. No. 797
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 26, 2015; March 2, 2015,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water,
 1-4 and Rural Affairs; April 14, 2015, rereferred to Committee on
 1-5 Intergovernmental Relations; April 29, 2015, reported adversely,
 1-6 with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7,
 1-7 Nays 0; April 29, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9				
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 797 By: Lucio

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to a grant program to reduce wait times for agricultural
 1-21 inspections of vehicles at ports of entry along the Texas-Mexico
 1-22 border.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by
 1-25 adding Section 12.050 to read as follows:

1-26 Sec. 12.050. TRADE AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION GRANT PROGRAM.

1-27 (a) Using money appropriated for this purpose or money received
 1-28 under Subsection (g), the department may make a grant to a nonprofit
 1-29 organization for the purpose of promoting the agricultural
 1-30 processing industry in this state by reducing wait times for
 1-31 agricultural inspections of vehicles at ports of entry along the
 1-32 border with the United Mexican States.

1-33 (b) The department shall request proposals for the award of
 1-34 a grant under this section. The department shall evaluate the
 1-35 proposals and award a grant based on the proposed program's
 1-36 quantifiable effectiveness and the potentially positive impact on
 1-37 the agricultural processing industry in this state.

1-38 (c) A grant awarded under this section must be made to an
 1-39 organization that has demonstrated experience working with border
 1-40 inspection authorities to reduce border crossing wait times.

1-41 (d) A grant recipient may use grant money received under
 1-42 this section only to pay for activities directly related to the
 1-43 purpose of the grant program as described by Subsection (a). A
 1-44 grant recipient may use grant money to reimburse a federal
 1-45 governmental agency that, at the request of the grant recipient,
 1-46 provides additional border agricultural inspectors or pays
 1-47 overtime to border agricultural inspectors at ports of entry along
 1-48 the border with the United Mexican States.

1-49 (e) The department shall establish procedures to administer
 1-50 the grant program, including a procedure for the submission of a
 1-51 proposal and a procedure to be used by the department to evaluate a
 1-52 proposal.

1-53 (f) The department shall enter into a contract that includes
 1-54 performance requirements with each grant recipient. The department
 1-55 shall monitor and enforce the terms of the contract. The contract
 1-56 must authorize the department to recoup grant money from a grant
 1-57 recipient for failure of the grant recipient to comply with the
 1-58 terms of the contract.

1-59 (g) The department may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
 1-60 donations from any source for the purpose of awarding grants under

2-1 this section.

2-2 (h) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a
2-3 nonprofit organization must provide matching funds. The amount of
2-4 the grant may not exceed the amount of matching funds. The
2-5 department may not require a nonprofit organization to provide
2-6 matching funds in an amount that exceeds the amount of the grant.

2-7 (i) The department may adopt any rules necessary to
2-8 implement this section.

2-9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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